



Hannah Avery
Left by my Mother.
Mrs Mary Chaplin.

David Avery
Presented me by my honor
Mother Mrs Hannah Avery

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GOSPEL SONNETS;
OR,
SPIRITUAL SONGS,
IN SIX PARTS.

- I. The BELIEVER'S ESPOUSALS.
- II. The BELIEVER'S JOINTURE.
- III. The BELIEVER'S RIDDLE.
- IV. The BELIEVER'S LODGING.
- V. The BELIEVER'S SOLILOQUY.
- VI. The BELIEVER'S PRINCIPLES.

C O N C E R N I N G

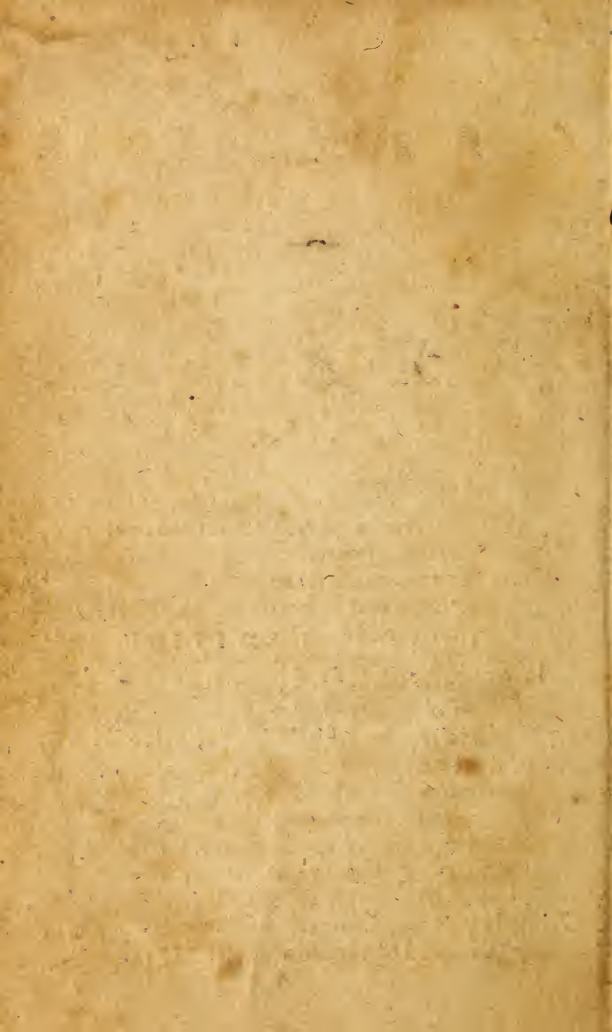
CREATION and REDEMPTION,
LAW and GOSPEL,
JUSTIFICATION and SANCTIFICATION,
FAITH and SENSE,
HEAVEN and EARTH.

The TENTH EDITION,
In which the *Holy Scriptures* are extended.

By the late Reverend Mr RALPH ERSKINE,
Minister of the Gospel at *Dunfermline*.

G L A S G O W :

Printed by JAMES KNOX, and sold at his Shop near
the head of the Salt-mercat. 1762.



And when the pipe grows foul within,
 Think on thy soul defi'd with sin;
 For then the fire
 It does require.
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

And see'st the ashes cast away;
 Then to thyself thou mayest say,
 That to the dust
 Return thou must.
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

P A R T II.

Was this small plant for thee cut down?
 So was the Plant of great renown;
 Which mercy sends
 For nobler ends.
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

Doth juice medicinal proceed
 From such a naughty foreign weed?
 Then what's the pow'r
 Of *Jesse's* flow'r?
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

The promise, like the pipe, inlays,
 And by the mouth of faith conveys
 What virtue flows
 From *Sharon's* rose.
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

In vain th' unlighted pipe you blow;
 Your pains in outward means are so,
 Till heav'nly fire
 Your heart inspire.
 Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

The smoke, like burning incense tow'rs;
So should a praying heart of yours
With ardent cries
Surmount the skies.
Thus think, and smoke Tobacco.

G O S P E L

GOSPEL SONNETS; OR, SPIRITUAL SONGS.

PART I.

The BELIEVER'S ESPOUSALS:

A POEM upon ISAIAH liv. 5. Thy
Maker is thy Husband.

P R E F A C E.

HARK, dying mortal if the sonnet prove
A song of living and immortal love,
'Tis then thy grand concern the theme to know,
If life and immortality be so.
Are eyes to read, or ears to hear a trust?
Shall both in death be cram'd anon with dust?
Then trifle not to please thine ear and eye,
But read thou, hear thou, for eternity.
Pursue not shadows wing'd, but be thy chase,
The God of glory on the field of grace;
The mighty hunter's name is lost and vain,
That runs not this substantial prize to gain.
These humble lines assume no high pretence,
To please thy fancy, or allure thy sense;
But aim, if everlasting life's thy chase,
To clear thy mind, and warm thy heart thro' grace.

*A marriage so mysterious I proclaim,
 Betwixt two parties of such different fame,
 That human tongues may blush their names to tell,
 To wit, the PRINCE of HEAVE'N, the heir of hell!
 But, on so vast a subject, who can find
 Words suiting the conceptions of his mind?
 Or, if our language with our thought could vie,
 What mortal thought can raise itself so high?
 When words and thoughts both fail, may faith and
 pray'r
 Ascend by climbing up the scripture-stair;
 From sacred writ these strange espousals may
 Be explicated in the following way.*

CH A P. I.

A general account of man's fall in ADAM, and the remedy provided in CHRIST; and a particular account of Man's being naturally wedded to the law, as a covenant of works.

SECT. I.

The FALL of A D A M.

OLD Adam once a heav'n of pleasure found,
 While he with perfect innocence was crown'd:
 His wing'd affections to his God could move
 In raptures of desire, and strains of love.
 Man standing spotless, pure and innocent,
 Could well the law of works with works content;
 Tho' then, (nor since) it could demand no less
 Than personal and perfect righteousness.

These

Presents unto the bride, in that dark hour,
Himself a Saviour, both by price and pow'r :
A mighty Helper to redeem the lost,
Relieve and ransom to the uttermost ;
To seek the vagrant sheep to desarts driv'n,
And save from lowest hell to highest heav'n.
Her doleful case he sees, his bowels move,
And make her time of need his time of love.
He shews, to prove himself her mighty shield,
His name is JESUS, by his Father seal'd :
A name with attributes engrav'd within,
To save from ev'ry attribute of sin.
With *wisdom*, sin's great folly to expose,
And *righteousness* its chain of guilt to loose,
Sanctification to subdue its sway,
Redemption all its woful brood to slay.
Each golden letter of his glorious name
Bears full deliverance both from sin and shame.
Yea, not privation bare from sin and wo,
But thence all positive salvations flow,
To make her *wife, just, holy, happy* too. }
He now appears a match exactly meet
To make her ev'ry way in him compleat,
In whom the fulness of the Godhead dwells,
That she may boast in him and nothing else.
In gospel-lines she now perceives the dawn ;
Of *Jesus'* love with bloody pencil drawn ;
How God in him is infinitely pleas'd,
And heav'n's revenging fury whole appeas'd :
Law-precepts magnify'd by her belov'd,
And ev'ry let to stop the match remov'd.
Now in her view her prison-gates break ope,
Wide to the walls flies up *the door of hope*,
And now she sees with pleasure unexpress'd
For shatter'd barks a happy shore of rest.

S E C T. IV.

The workings of the Spirit of faith in separating the heart from all self-righteousness, and drawing out its consent to, and desire after CHRIST alone and wholly.

THE bride at Sinai little understood.
 How these law-humblings were design'd
 for good,
 T' enhance the value of her husband's blood.
 The tow'r of tott'ring pride thus batter'd down,
 Makes way for Christ alone to wear the crown.
 Conviction's arrows pierc'd her heart, that so
 The blood from his pierc'd heart to hers might flow.
 The law's sharp plough tears up the fallow-ground,
 Where not a grain of grace was to be found,
 Till straight perhaps behind the plough is sown
 The hidden seed of faith, as yet unknown
 Hence now the once reluctant bride's inclin'd
 To give the gospel an *assenting mind*,
 Dispos'd to take, would grace the pow'r impart,
 Heav'n's offer with a free *consenting heart*.
 His Spirit in the gospel chariot rides,
 And shews his loving heart to draw the bride's;
 Tho' oft in clouds his drawing pow'r he hides.
 His love in gracious offers to her bears,
 In kindly answers to her doubts and fears,
 Resolving all objections more or less,
 From former sins, or present worthlessness.
 Persuades her mind of's conjugal consent,
 And then impow'rs her heart to say *Content*.
 Content to be divorc'd from the law,
 No more the yoke of legal terms to draw.

Content

Content that he dissolve the former match,
And to himself alone her heart attach.
Content to join with *Christ* at any rate,
And wed him as her everlasting mate.
Content that he should ever wear the bays,
And of her whole salvation have the praise.
Content that he should rise, tho' she should fall,
And to be nothing, that he may be all.
Content that he, because she nought can do,
Do *for her* all her work and *in her* too.
Here she a peremptory mind displays,
That he do all the work, get all the praise.
And now she is, which ne'er till now took place,
Content entirely to be sav'd by *grace*.
She owns that her damnation just would be,
And therefore her salvation must be free :
That nothing being hers but sin and thrall,
She must be debtor unto grace for all.

Hence comes she to him in her naked case,
To be invested with his righteousness.
She comes, as *guilty* to a pardon free :
As vile and *filthy*, to a cleansing sea ;
As *poor* and empty to the richest stock ;
As *weak* and feeble, to the strongest rock :
As perishing, unto a shield from thrall :
As worse than nothing, to an ail in all.
She, as a blinded mole, an ign'rant fool,
Comes for instruction to the *Prophet's* school.
She with a hell-deserving conscious breast,
Flees for atonement to the worthy *Priest*.
She, as a slave to sin and Satan, wings
Her flight for help unto the *King* of kings.
She all her maladies and plagues brings forth
To this physician of eternal worth.

She spreads before his throne her filthy sore,
 And lays her broken bones down at his door.
 No mite she has to buy a crumb of bliss,
 And therefore comes improv'rish'd as she is.
 By sin and *Satan* of all good bereft,
 Comes e'en as bare as they her soul have left.
 To sense, as free of holiness within,
 As *Christ* the spotless Lamb, was free of sin.
 She comes by faith, true; but it shews her want,
 And brings her as a sinner, not a saint,
 A wretched sinner flying for her good
 To justifying, sanctifying blood.
 Strong faith no strength nor pow'r of acting vaunts,
 But acts in sense of weakness and of wants.
 Drain'd now of ev'ry thing that men may call
 Terms and conditions of relief from thrall;
 Except this one, that Jesus be her all. }
 When to the bride he gives espousing faith,
 It finds her under sin, and guilt, and wrath,
 And makes her as a plagued wretch to fall
 At *Jesus'* footstool for the cure of all.
 Her whole salvation now in him she seeks,
 And musing, thus perhaps in secret speaks
 " Lo! all my burdens may in him be eas'd;
 " The justice I offended he has pleas'd;
 " The bliss that I have forfeit he procur'd;
 " The curse that I deserved he endur'd;
 " The law that I have broken he obey'd;
 " The debt that I contracted he has paid:
 " And though a match unfit for him I be,
 " I find him ev'ry way most fit for me.
 " Sweet Lord, I think, wouldst thou thyself impart
 " I'd welcome thee with open hand and heart.
 " But thou that sav'st by price, must save by pow'r;
 " O send thy Spirit in a fiery show'r,

" This cold and frozen heart of mine to thaw,
 " That nought, save cords of burning love, can draw.
 " O draw me, Lord, then will I run to thee,
 " And glad into thy glowing bosom flee.
 " I own myself a mass of sin and hell,
 " A brat that can do nothing but rebel:
 " But *didst thou not*, as sacred pages shew *,
 " (When rising up to spoil the hellish crew,
 " That had by thousands, sinners captive made,
 " And hadst in conqu'ring chains them captive led)
 " *Get donatives, not for thy proper gain,*
 " *But royal bounties for rebellious men,*
 " *Gifts, graces, and the Spirit without bounds,*
 " *For God's new house with man on former grounds?*
 " O then let me a rebel now come speed,
 " The holy Spirit is the gift I need.
 " His precious graces too, the glorious grant,
 " Thou kindly promis'd, and I greatly want.
 " Thou art exalted to the highest place,
 " *To give repentance forth and ev'ry grace.*
 " O giver of spiritual life and breath,
 " The author and the finisher of faith;
 " Thou husband like must ev'ry thing provide,
 " If e'er the like of me become thy bride."

S E C T. V.

*Faith's view of the freedom of grace, cordial re-
 nunciation of all its own ragged righteousness,
 and formal acceptance of and closing with the
 person of glorious CHRIST.*

THE bride with open eyes, that once were dim,
 Sees now her whole salvation lies in him;

The Prince, who is not in dispensing nice,
But freely gives without her pains or price.
This magnifies the wonder in her eye,
Who not a farthing has wherewith to buy;

For now her humbled mind can disavow
Her boasted beauty and assuming brow,
With conscious eye discern her emptiness,
With candid lips her poverty confess.

"O glory to the Lord that grace is free,
"Else never would it light on guilty me.
"I nothing have with me to be its price,
"But hellish blackness, enmity and vice."

In former times she durst presuming come,
To grace's market with a pretty sum
Of duties, prayers, tears a boasted set,
Expecting Heav'n would thus be in her debt.

These were the price, at least she did suppose
She'd be the welcomer because of those:

But now she sees the vileness of her vogue,

The dung that clogs doth ev'ry duty clog,

The sin that doth her holiness reprove,

The enmity that clogs attends her love,

The great heart-hardness of her penitence,

The stupid dulness of her vaunted sense,

The unbelief of former blazed faith,

The utter nothingness of all she hath.

The blackness of her beauty she can see,

The pompous pride of strain'd humility,

The naughtiness of all her tears and pray'rs;

And now renounces all as worthless wares;

And finding nothing to commend herself,

But what may damn her, her embezzled self;

At sov'reign grace's feet does prostrate fall,

Content to be in *Jesus'* debt for all.

Her noised virtues vanish out of sight,
 As starry tapers at meridian light;
 While sweetly, humbly, she beholds at length
 Christ, as her only righteousness and strength.
 He with the view throws down his loving dart,
 Imprest with pow'r into her tender heart.
 The deeper that the law's fierce dart was thrown,
 The deeper now the dart of love goes down:
 Hence, sweetly pain'd, her cries to heav'n do flee;
 "O none but *Jesus*, none but *Christ* for me;
 "O glorious *Christ*, O beauty, beauty rare!
 "Ten thousand thousand heav'ns are not so fair.
 "In him at once all beauties meet and shine,
 "The white and ruddy, human and divine.
 "As in his low, he's in his high abode,
 "The brightest image of the unseen God.
 "How justly do the harpers sing above,
 "His doing, dying, rising, reigning love?
 "How justly does he, when his work is done,
 "Possess the center of his Father's throne?
 "How justly do his awful throne before
 "Seraphic armies prostrate, him adore;
 "That's both by nature and donation crown'd,
 "With all the grandeur of the Godhead round?
 "But wilt thou, Lord in very deed come dwell
 "With me, that was a burning brand of hell?
 "With me, so justly reckon'd worse and less
 "Than insect, mite, or atom can express?
 "Wilt thou debase thy high imperial form,
 "To match with such a mortal, crawling worm?
 "Yea, sure thine errand to our earthly coast,
 "Was in deep love to seek and save the lost:
 "And since thou deign'st the like of me to wed
 "O come and make my heart thy marriage-bed.

"Fair *Jesus*, wilt thou marry filthy me!

"Amen, Amen, Amen; so let it be."

C H A P. III.

The fruits of the believer's marriage with **CHRIST**, particularly gospel holiness and obedience to the law as a rule.

S E C T. I.

The sweet solemnity of the marriage now over, and the sad effects of the remains of a legal spirit.

THE match is made, with little din 'tis done,
But with great pow'r unequal prizes won.
The Lamb has fairly won his worthless bride;
She her great Lord, and all his store beside.
He made the poorest bargain, though most wise;
And she, the fool, has won the worthy prize.

Deep floods of everlasting love and grace,
That under ground ran an eternal space,
Now rise aloft 'bove banks of sin and hell,
And o'er the tops of massy mountains swell.
In streams of blood are tow'rs of guilt o'erflown,
Down with the rapid purple current thrown.

The bride now as her all can *Jesus* own,
And prostrate at his footstool cast her crown,
Disclaiming all her former groundless hope,
While in the dark her soul did weary grope.
Down tumble all the hills of self-conceit,
In him alone she sees herself compleat;
Does his fair person with fond arms embrace,
And all her hopes on his full merit place;
Discard her former mate, and henceforth draw
No hope, no expectation from the law.

Tho'

Tho' thus her new-created nature soars,
And lives aloft on *Jesus*' heavenly stores;
Yet, apt to stray, her old adul'trous heart
Oft takes her old renounced husband's part:
A legal cov'nant is so deep ingrain'd
Upon the human nature laps'd and stain'd,
That, till her spirit mount the purest clime,
She's never totally divorc'd in time.
Hid in her corrupt part's proud bosom lurks
Some hope of life still by the law of works.

Hence flow the following evils more or less;
Preferring oft her partial holy drefs,
Before her husband's perfect righteousness.

Hence joying more in grace already giv'n,
Than in her head and stock that's all in heav'n.
Hence grieving more the want of frames and grace,
Than of himself the spring of all solace.

Hence guilt her soul imprisons, lusts prevail,
While to the law her rents insolvent fail, (bail.
And yet her faithless heart rejects her husband's

Hence soul-disorders rise, and racking fears,
While doubtful of his clearing past arears;
Vain dreaming, since her own obedience fails,
His likewise little for her help avails.

Hence duties are a task, while all in view
Is heavy yokes of laws, or old or new:
Whereas, were once her legal bias broke,
She'd find her Lord's commands an easy yoke.
No galling precepts on her neck he lays,
Nor any debt demands save what he pays
By promis'd aid: But lo, the grievous law
Demanding brick, won't aid her with a straw.

Hence also fretful grudging, discontent,
Crav'd by the law, finding her treasure spent,
And doubting if her Lord will pay the rent.

Hence pride of duties too does often swell,
 Presuming she perform'd so very well.
 Hence pride of graces and inherent worth
 Springs from her corrupt legal bias forth;
 And boasting more a present with'ring frame,
 Than her exalted Lord's unsading name.

Hence many falls and plunges in the mire,
 As many new conversions do require:
 Because her faithless heart's sad follies breed
 Much lewd departure from her living head,
 Who, to reprove her aggravated crimes,
 Leaves her abandon'd to herself at times;
 That falling into frightful deeps, she may
 From sad experience learn more stress to lay,
 Not on her native efforts, but at length
 On Christ alone, her righteousness and strength:
 Conscious, while in her works she seeks repose,
 Her legal spirit breeds her many woes.

S E C T. II.

*Faith's victories over sin and Satan through new
 and farther discoveries of CHRIST, making be-
 lievers more fruitful in holiness than all other
 pretenders to works.*

THE gospel path leads heav'n-ward; hence the
 fray,
 Hell-pow'rs still push the bride the legal way.
 So hot the war, her life's a troubled flood,
 A field of battle, and a scene of blood.
 But he that once commenc'd the work in her,
 Whose working fingers drop the sweetest myrrh,
 Will still advance it by alluring force,
 And, from her ancient mate, more clean divorce:
 Since

Since 'tis her antiquated spouse the law
The strength of sin and hell did on her draw.
Piece-meal she finds hell's mighty force abate,
By new recruits from her almighty Mate.
Fresh armour, sent from grace's magazine,
Makes her proclaim eternal war with sin.
The shield of faith, dipt in the Surety's blood,
Drowns fiery darts, as in a crimson flood.
The Captain's ruddy banner, lifted high,
Makes hell retire, and all the furies fly.
Yea, of his glory ev'ry recent glance
Makes sin decay, and holiness advance.
In kindness therefore does her heavenly Lord
Renew'd discov'ries of his love afford,
That her enamour'd soul may with the view
Be cast into his holy mould anew:
For when he manifests his glorious grace,
The charming favour of his smiling face,
Into his image fair transforms her soul *,
And wasts her upward to the heav'nly pole,
From glory unto glory by degrees,
Till vision and fruition shall suffice.
And thus in holy beauty *Jesus'* bride
Shines far beyond the painted sons of pride,
Vain merit-vouchers, and their subtle apes,
In all their most refin'd, delusive shapes.
No lawful child is ere the marriage born;
Tho' therefore virtues feign'd their life adorn,
The fruit they bear is but a spurious brood,
Before this happy marriage be made good.
And 'tis not strange, for *from a corrupt tree*
No fruit divinely good produc'd can be.
But to the bride, graft in the living root,
Brings forth most precious aromatic fruit.

* 2 Cor. iii. 18.

When her new heart and her new husband meet,
 Her fruitful womb is like a heap of wheat,
Beset with fragrant lilies round about, †
 All divine graces, in a comely rout,
 Burning within, and shining bright without.
 And thus the bride, as sacred scripture saith,
When dead unto the law through Jesus' death ‡,
And match'd with him, bears to her God and Lord
Accepted fruit, with incense pure decor'd.
 Freed from law debt, and blest with gospel-ease,
 Her work is now her dearest Lord to please,
 By living on him as her ample stock,
 And leaning on him as her potent rock.
 The fruit, that each law-wedded mortal brings,
 To self accresces, as from self it springs.
 So base a rise must have a base recourse,
 'The stream can mount no higher than its source.
 But *Jesus* can his bride's sweet fruit commend,
 As brought from him the root, to him the end,
 She does by such an offspring him avow
 To be her *ALPHA* and *OMEGA* too.
 'The work and warfare he begins, he crowns,
 Tho' maugre various conflicts, ups and downs.
 Thus thro' the darksome vale she makes her way,
 Until the morning-dawn of glory's day.

S E C T. III.

*True saving faith magnifying the law, both as a
 covenant and a rule. False faith unfruitful and
 ruining.*

PRoud nature may reject this gospel-theme,
 And curse it as an *Antinomian* scheme.

Let

† *Cant.* vii. 2.‡ *Rom.* vii. 4.

Let slander bark, let envy grin and fight,
The curse that is so causeless shall not light.
If they that fain would make by holy force
'Twixt sinners and the law a clean divorce,
And court the Lamb a virgin chaste to wife,
Be charg'd as foes to holiness of life;
Well may they suffer gladly on this score,
Apostles great were so malign'd before.
Do we make void the law through faith? nay, why,
We do it more fulfil and magnify
Than fiery seraphs can with holiest flash;
Avaunt, vain legalists, unworthy trash.

When as a *cov'nant* stern the law commands,
Faith puts her Lamb's obedience in its hands:
And when its threats gush out a fiery flood,
Faith stops the current with her victim's blood.
The law can crave no more, yet craves no less,
Than active, passive, perfect righteousness.
Yet here is all, yea more than its demand,
All render'd to it by a divine hand.
Mankind is bound law-service still to pay,
Yea, angel-kind is also bound to obey.
It may by human and angelic blaze
Have honour, but in finite partial ways.
These natures have its lustre once defac'd,
'Twill be by part of both for ay disgrac'd.
Yet, had they all obsequious stood and true,
They'd given the law no more than homage due.
But faith gives't honour yet more great, more odd,
The high, the humble service of its God.

Again to view the holy law's command,
As lodged in a mediator's hand;
Faith gives it honour, *as a rule of life*,
And makes the bride the Lamb's obedient wife.

Due homage to the law those never did,
 To whom th' obedience pure of faith is hid.
Faith works by love, and purifies the heart,
 And truth advances in the inward part;
 On carnal hearts impresses divine stamps,
 And fully'd lives inverts to shining lamps.
 From *Abram's* seed, that are most strong in faith,
 The law most honour, God most glory hath.
 But due respect to neither can be found,
 Where unbelief ne'er got a mortal wound,
 To still the virtue-vaunter's empty sound. }
 Good works he boasts, a path he never trod,
 Who is not yet *the workmanship of God* *.
In Jesus thereunto created new;
 Nois'd works that spring not hence are but a shew.
 True faith, that's of a noble divine race,
 Is still a holy, sanctifying grace;
 And greater honour to the law does share,
 Than boasters all that breathe the vital air.
 E'en heathen morals vastly may out-shine
 The works that flow not from a faith divine.

Pretensions high to faith a number have,
 But ah! it is a faith that cannot save:
 "We trust, say they, in Christ, we hope in God;"
 Nor blush to blaze their rotten faith abroad.
 Nor try the trust of which they make a shew,
 If of a saving or a damning hue.
 They own their sins are ill; true, but 'tis sad
 They never thought their faith and hope were bad.
 How evident's their home-bred nat'ral blaze,
 Who dream they have believ'd well all their days;
 Yet never felt their unbelief, nor knew
 The need of pow'r their natures to renew?

Blind

Blind souls that boast of faith, yet live in sin;
May hence conclude their faith is to begin;
Or know they shall, by such an airy faith,
Believe themselves to everlasting wrath.
Faith that nor leads to *good*, nor keeps from *ill*,
Will never lead to heav'n, nor keep from hell:
The body without breath is dead †; no less
Is faith without the works of holiness.
How rare is saving faith, when earth is cramm'd
With such as will believe and yet be damn'd,
Believe the gospel, yet with dread and awe
Have never truly first believ'd the law?
That matters shall be well, they hope too soon,
Who never yet have seen they were undone.
Can of salvation their belief be true,
Who never yet believ'd damnation due?
Can these of endless life have solid faith,
Who never fear'd law-threats of endless death?
Nay, sail'd they ha'nt yet to the healing shore,
Who never felt their sinful, woful sore.

Imaginary faith is but a blind,
That bears no fruit but of a deadly kind;
Nor can from such a wild unwholsom root
The least production rise of living fruit.
But saving faith can such an offspring breed,
Her native product is a holy seed.
The fairest issues of the vital breath
Spring from the fertile womb of heav'n-born faith;
Yet boasts she nothing of her own but brings
Auxiliaries from the *king* of kings,
Who graves his royal law in rocky hearts,
And gracious aid in softning show'rs imparts:
This gives prolific virtue to the faith,
Inspir'd at first by his almighty breath.

† *James ii. 26.*

Hence,

Hence, fetching all her succours from abroad,
 She still employs this mighty pow'r of God.
 Drain'd clean of native pow'rs and legal aims,
 No strength but in and from *Jehovah* claims.
 And thus her service to the law o'ertops
 The tow'ring zeal of Pharisaic fops.

S E C T. IV.

The believer only being marry'd to CHRIST, is justified and sanctified; and the more gospel-freedom from the law as a covenant, the more holy conformity to it as a rule.

TH U S doth the husband by his father's will
 Both *for* and *in* his bride the law fulfil:
For her, as 'tis a covenant; and then
In her as 'tis a rule of life to men.
 First all law-debt he most compleatly pays,
 Then of law-duties all the charge defrays.
 Does first assume her guilt, and loose her chains
 And then with living water wash her stains;
 Her fund restore, and then her form repair,
 And make his filthy bride a beauty fair;
 His perfect righteousness most freely grant
 And then his holy image deep implant;
 Into her heart his precious seed in-drop,
 Which in his time will yield a glorious crop.
 But by alternate turns his plants he brings
 Thro' robbing winters and repairing springs.
 Hence pining oft, they suffer sad decays
 By dint of shady nights and stormy days.
 But blest with sap, and influence from above,
 They live and grow anew in faith and love;
 Until transplanted to the higher soil,
 Where furies tread no more, nor foxes spoil.

White

While Christ the living root remains on high,
 The noble plant of grace can never die;
 Nature decays, and so will all the fruit
 That merely rises on a mortal root.

Their works, however splendid, are but dead,
 That from a living fountain don't proceed;
 Their fairest fruit is but a garnish'd shrine,
 That are not grafted in the glorious vine.

Devoutest hypocrites are rank'd in rolls
 Of painted puppets, not of living souls.

No offspring but of Christ's fair bride is good,
 This happy marriage has a holy brood.

Let sinners learn this mystery to read,
 We bear to glorious Christ no precious seed.

Till through the law, we to the law be dead.

No true obedience to the law, but forc'd,
 Can any yield, 'till from the law divorc'd.

Nor *to it as a rule*, is homage giv'n,

Till *from it*, as a *cov'nant* men be driv'n,

Yea more, till once they this divorce attain,
 Divorce from sin they but attempt in vain;

The cursed yoke of sin they basely draw,

'Till once unyoked from the cursing law.

Sin's full dominion keeps its native place,

While men are *under law, not under grace* †.

For mighty hills of enmity won't move,

Till touch'd by conqu'ring grace and mighty love.

Were but the gospel-secret understood,

How God can pardon where he sees no good;

How grace and mercy free, that can't be bought.

Reign through a righteousness already wrought:

Were woful reigning unbelief dispos'd:

Mysterious grace to blinded minds disclos'd:

Did

*Gal. ii. 19.

† Rom. vi. 14.

Did heav'n with gospel news its pow'r convey,
 And sinners hear a faithful God but say,
 "No more law-debt remains for you to pay;
 "Lo, by the loving surety all's discharg'd,"
 Their hearts behov'd with love to be enlarg'd:
 Love, the succinct fulfilling of the law,
 Were then the easy yoke they'd sweetly draw,
 Love would constrain and to his service move,
 Who left them nothing else to do but love.
 Slight now his loving precepts if they can;
 No, no, his conqu'ring kindness leads the van.

When everlasting love exerts the sway,
 They judge themselves more kindly bound t'obey,
 Bound by redeeming grace in stricter sense
 Than ever *Adam* was in innocence.
 Why now they are not bound as formerly,
 To *do* and *live*, nor yet to *do* or *die*;
 Both life and death are put in *Jesus'* hands,
 Who urges neither in his kind commands,
 Not servile work their life and heaven to win,
 Nor slavish labour death and hell to shun.
 Their aims are purer, since they understood
 Their heav'n was bought, their hell was quench'd
 with blood.

The oars of gospel-service now they steer,
 Without or legal hope, or slavish fear.

The bride in sweet security can dwell,
 Nor bound to purchase heav'n, nor vanquish hell:
 But bound for him the race of love to run,
 Whose love to her left none of these undone;
 She's bound to be the Lamb's obedient wife,
 And in his strength to serve him, during life;
 To glorify his loving name for ay,
 Who left her not a single mite to pay

Of legal debt, but wrote for her at large
In characters of blood a full discharge.
Henceforth no servile task her labours prove,
But grateful fruits of reverential love.

S E C T. V.

*Gospel grace giving no liberty nor freedom to sin,
but to holy service and pure obedience.*

THE glorious husband's love can't lead the wife
To whoredom or licentiousness of life:
Nay, nay, she finds his warmest love within,
The hottest fire to melt her heart for sin.
His kind embrace is still the strongest cord
To bind her to the service of her Lord.
The more her faith insures this love of his,
The more his law her delectation is.
Some dream, they might, who this assurance win,
Take latitude and liberty to sin.
Ah! such bewray their ignorance and prove
They want the lively sense of drawing love,
And how its sweet constraining force can move. }
The ark of grace came never in to dwell,
But *Dagon*-lusts before it headlong fell.
Men basely can unto lasciviousness
Abuse the doctrine, not the work of grace.
Huggers of divine love in vice's path.
Have but the fancy of it, not the faith.
They never soar'd aloft on grace's wing,
That knew not grace to be a holy thing:
When regnant the the pow'rs of hell appalls,
And sin's dominion in the ruin falls.
Curst is the crew, whose *Antinomian* dress
Makes grace a cover to their idleness.

The bride of Christ will fure be very loath
 To make his love a pillow for her sloth.
 Why, mayn't she sin the more that grace abounds?
 Oh, God forbid! the very thought confounds.
 When dead unto the law, she's dead to sin;
 How can she any longer live therein?
 To neither of them is she now a slave,
 But shares the conquest of the great, the brave,
 The mighty Gen'ral, her victorious head,
 Who broke the double chain to free the bride.
 Hence, prompted now with gratitude and love,
 Her chearful feet in swift obedience move.
 More strong the cords of love to duty draw,
 Than hell and all the curses of the law.
 When with seraphic love the breast's inspir'd,
 By that are all the other graces fir'd;
 These kindling round, the burning heart and frame
 In life and walk send forth a holy flame.

C H A P IV.

A caution to all against a legal spirit; especially to those that have a profession without power, and learning without grace.

WHY, says the haughty heart of legalists,
 Bound to the law of works by nat'ral twists,
 " Why such ado about a law-divorce?
 " Mens lives are bad and would you have'em worse?
 " Such *Antinomian* stuff with labour'd toil
 " Would humanbeauty's native lustre spoil.
 " What wickedness beneath the cov'ring lurks,
 " That lewdly would divorce us all from works?
 " Why such a stir about the law and grace?
 " We know that merit cannot now take place,
 " And

"And what needs more?" Well, to let slander drop
Be merit for a little here the scope.

Ah! many learn to lisp in gospel-terms,
Who yet embrace the law with legal arms.
By wholesom education some are taught
To own that human merit now is naught;
Who faintly but renounce proud merit's name,
And cleave refin'dly to the Popish scheme.
For graceful works expecting divine bliss,
And, when they fail, trust Christ for what's amiss.
Thus to his righteousness profess to flee,
Yet by it still would their own saviours be.
They seem to works of merit bloody foes,
Yet seek salvation *as it were* † by those.
Blind *Gentiles* found, who did nor seek nor know:
But *Isra'l* lost it whole, who sought it so.

Let all that love to wear the legal dress,
Know that as sin, so dastard righteousness
Has slain its thousands, who in tow'ring pride
The righteousness of *Jesus Christ* deride;
A robe divinely wrought, divinely won,
Yet cast by men for rags that are their own.
But some to legal works seem whole deny'd,
Yet would by gospel-works be justify'd,
By faith, repentance, love, and other such:
These dreamers being righteous overmuch,
Like *Uzza* give the ark a wrongful touch.
By legal deeds however gospeliz'd,
Can e'er tremendous justice be pleas'd?
Or sinners justified before that God,
Whose law is perfect and exceeding broad?
Nay, faith itself, that leading gospel-grace,
Holds as a work no justifying place.

Just heav'n to man for righteousness imputes
 Not faith itself, or in its acts or fruits;
 But *Jesus'* meritorious life and death,
 Faith's proper object, all the honour hath.
 From this doth faith derive its glorious fame,
 Its great renown and justifying name;
 Receiving all things, but deserving nought;
 By faith all's begg'd and taken, nothing bought.
 Its highest name is from the wedding-vote,
 So instrumental in the marriage knot.
Jehovah lends the bride, in that blest hour,
Th' exceeding greatness of his mighty pow'r;
 Which sweetly does her heart-consent command
 To reach the wealthy Prince her naked hand.
 For close to his embrace she'd never stir,
 If first his loving arms embrac'd not her:
 But this he does by kindly gradual chase,
 Of rousing, raising, teaching, drawing grace.
 He shews her, in his sweetest love-address,
 His glory as the sun of righteousness;
 At which all dying glories earth adorn
 Shrink like the sick moon at the wholsom morn.
 This glorious sun arising with a grace,
 Dark shades of creature-righteousness to chase,
 Faith now disclaims itself, and all the train
 Of virtues formerly accounted gain;
 And counts them dung, with holy, meek disdain.
 For now appears the height, the depth immense
 Of divine bounty and benevolence;
 Amazing mercy ! ignorant of bounds !
 Which most enlarged faculties confounds.
 How vain, how void now seem the vulgar charms,
 The monarch's pomp of courts, and pride of arms.
 The boasted beauties of the human kind,
 The pow'rs of body, and the gifts of mind !

Lo! in the grandeur of *Immanuel's* train,
All's swallowed up, as rivers in the main.
He's seen, when gospel-light and sight is giv'n,
Encompass'd round with all the pomp of heav'n.

The soul now, taught of God, sees human schools
Make christless Rabbi's only lit'rate fools;
And that, 'till divine teaching pow'rful draw,
No learning will divorce them from the law.
Mere argument may clear the head, and force
A verbal, not a cordial clean divorce.

Hence many, taught the wholsom terms of art,
Have gospel-heads, but still a legal heart.
'Till sov'reign grace and pow'r the sinner catch,
He takes not *Jesus* for his only match.

Nay, works compete! ah! true, however odd,
Dead works are rivals with the living God.

'Till heav'n's preventing mercy clear the sight,
Confound the pride with supernat'ral light;
No haughty soul of human kind is brought
To mortify her self-exalting thought.

Yet holiest creatures in clay-tents that lodge
Be but their lives scann'd by the dreadful Judge;
How shall they e'er his awful search endure,
Before whose purest eyes heav'n is not pure?
How must their black indictment be enlarged,
When by him angels are with folly charg'd?
What human worth shall stand, when he shall scan?
O may his glory stain the pride of man.

How wondrous are the tracts of divine grace,
How searchless are his ways, how vast th' abyss?
Let haughty reason stop, and fear to leap;
Angelic plummet cannot sound the deep.
With scorn he turns his eyes from haughty kings,
With pleasure looks on low and worthless things;

Deep

Deep are his judgments, sov'reign is his will,
 Let ev'ry mortal worm be dumb, be still.
 In vain proud reason swells beyond its bound;
 God and his counsels are a gulf profound,
 An ocean wherein all our thoughts are drown'd. }

C H A P. V.

Arguments and encouragements to gospel-ministers
 to avoid a legal strain of doctrine, and endeavour
 the sinners match with CHRIST by gospel-
 means.

S E C T. I.

A legal spirit the root of damnable errors.

Y E heralds great that blow in name of God
 The silver trump of gospel-grace abroad;
 And sound, by warrant from the great I AM,
 The nuptial treaty with the worthy Lamb:
 Might ye but stoop th' unpolish'd muse to brook,
 And from a shrub an wholesom berry pluck;
 Ye'd take encouragement from what is said,
 By gospel-means to make the marriage bed,
 And to your glorious Lord a virgin chaste to wed. }

The more proud nature bears a legal sway,
 The more should preachers bend the gospel-way:
 Oft in the church arise destructive schisms
 From anti-evangelic aphorisms;
 A legal spirit may be justly nam'd
 The sterile womb of ev'ry error damn'd.
 Hence *Pep'ry*, so connat'ral since the fall,
 Makes legal works like saviours merit all;

Yea,

Yea, more than merit on their shoulder loads,
To supererogate like demi-gods.

Hence proud *Socinians* seat their reason high,
'Bove every precious gospel-mystery,
Its divine author stab, and without fear
The purple covert of his chariot tear.

With these run *Arian* monsters in a line,
All gospel-truth at once to undermine;
To darken and delete, like hellish foes,
The brightest colour of the *Sharon* Rose.
At best its human *red* they but decry,
That blot the divine *white*, the native dye.

Hence dare *Arminians* too, with brasen face,
Give man's free-will the throne of God's free grace;
Whose self-exalting tenets clearly shew
Great ignorance of law and gospel too.

Hence *Necnomians* spring, as sundry call
The new law-makers, to redress our fall.
The law of works into repentance, faith,
Is chang'd, as their *Baxterian* bible saith.
Shaping the gospel to an easy law,
They build their tottering house with hay and straw;
Yet hide, like *Rachel's* idols in the stuff,
Their legal hands within a gospel muff.

Yea, hence springs *Antinomian* vile refuse,
Whose gross abettors gospel-grace abuse;
Unskill'd how graces silken latchet binds
Her captives to the law with willing minds.

S E C T. II.

A legal strain of doctrine discovered and discarded.

NO wonder *Paul* the legal spirit curse,
Of fatal errors such a feeding nurse.

He, in *Jehovah's* great tremendous name,
 Condemns perverters of the gospel scheme.
 He damn'd the sophist rude, the babbling priest
 Would venture to corrupt it in the least;
 Yea, curst the heav'nly angel down to hell,
 That daring would another gospel tell *.
 Which crime is charg'd on these that dare dispense
 The self-same gospel in another sense.

Christ is not preach'd in truth but in disguise,
 If his bright glory half absconded lies.
 When gospel-soldiers, that divide the word,
 Scarce brandish any but the legal sword.

While *Christ* the *author* of the law they press,
 More than the *end* of it for righteousness;
Christ as a *seeker* of our service trace,
 More than a *giver* of enabling grace.
 The King commanding holiness they show,
 More than the Prince exalted to bestow;
 Yea more on *Christ* the sin revenger dwell,
 Than *Christ* Redeemer both from sin and hell.

With legal spade the gospel field he delves,
 Who thus drives sinners in unto themselves;
 Halving the truth that should be all reveal'd,
 The sweetest part of *Christ* is oft conceal'd.
 We bid men turn from sin, but seldom say,
Behold the Lamb that takes all sin away!
Christ, by the gospel rightly understood,
 Not only treats a peace, but makes it good.
 Those suitors therefore of the bride, who hope
 By force to drag her with the legal rope,
 Nor use the drawing cord of conqu'ring grace,
 Pursue with flaming zeal a fruitless chase;
 In vain lame doings urge, with solemn awe,
 To bribe the fury of the fiery law:

* *Gal. i 7. 8.*

With

With equal success to the fool that aims
 By paper walls to bound devouring flames.
 The law's but mock'd by their most graceful deed,
 That wed not first the law-fulfilling head.
 It values neither how they wrought nor wept,
 That slight the ark wherein alone 'tis kept.
 Yet legalists, DO, DO, with ardour press,
 And with prepos't'rous zeal and warm address
 Would seem the greatest friends to holiness:
 But vainly (could such opposites accord)
 Respect the law, and yet reject the Lord.
 They shew not *Jesus* as the way to bliss,
 But *Judas*-like betray him with a kiss
 Of boasted works, or mere profession pufft,
 Law-boasters proving but law breakers oft.

S E C T. III.

The hurtfulness of not preaching CHRIST. and distinguishing duly between law and gospel.

HELL cares not how crude holiness be preach'd
 If sinners match with *Christ* be never reach'd;
 Knowing their holiness is but a sham
 Who ne'er are marry'd to the *holy Lamb*.
 Let words have never such a pious shew
 And blaze aloft in rude professor's view,
 With sacred aromatics richly spic'd,
 If they but drown in silence glorious *Christ*;
 Or, if he may some vacant room supply,
 Make him a subject only by the by;
 They mar true holiness with tickling chat
 To breed a bastard Pharisaic brat.
 They wofully the gospel-message broke,
 Make fearful havock of the Master's flock;
 Yet please themselves and the blind multitude,
 By whom the gospel's little understood.

Rude souls perhaps imagine little odds
 Between the legal and the gospel roads :
 But vainly men attempt to blend the two ;
 They differ more than *Christ* and *Moses* do.
Moses, evangelizing in a shade,
 By types the news of light approaching spread ;
 But from the law of works by him proclaim'd,
 No ray of gospel-grace or mercy gleam'd.
 By nature's light the law to all is known,
 But lightsome news of gospel-grace to none.
 The doing cov'nant now, in part or whole
 Is strong to damn, but weak to save a soul.
 It hurts, and cannot help, but as it tends
 Through mercy to subserve some gospel ends.
 Law-thunder roughly to the gospel tames,
 The gospel mildly to the law reclaims.
 The fiery law, as 'tis a covenant,
 Schools men to see the gospel-aid they want ;
 Then gospel aid does sweetly them incline
 Back to the law as 'tis a rule divine. (wounds,
 Heav'n's healing work is oft commenc'd with
 Terror begins what loving-kindness crowns.
 Preachers may therefore press the fiery law,
 To strike the Christless man with dreadful awe
 Law-threats which for his sins to hell depress,
 Yea, damn him for his rotten righteousness ;
 That, while he views the law exceeding broad,
 He fain may wed the righteousness of God.

But ah ! to press law-works as terms of life,
 Was ne'er the way to court the Lamb a wife.
 To urge conditions in the legal frame,
 Is to renew the vain old cov'nant game.
 The law is good when lawfully 'tis us'd,
 But most destructive when it is abus'd.

They

They set not duties in the proper sphere,
 Who duly law and gospel don't severe;
 But under massy chains let sinners lie,
 As tributaries, or to DO or DIE.
 Nor make the law a squaring rule of life,
 But in the gospel-throat a bloody knife.

S E C T. IV.

*Damnable pride and self-righteousness, so natural
 to all men, has little need to be encouraged by legal
 preaching.*

TH E legal path proud nature loves so well,
 (Tho' yet 'tis but the cleanest road to hell)
 That, lo! e'en these that take the foulest ways
 Whose lewdness no controuling bridle stays;
 If but their drowsy conscience raise its voice,
 'Twill speak the law of works their native choice,
 And echo to the rousing sound, "Ah true!
 "I cannot hope to live, unless I DO."
 No conscious breast of mortal kind can trace
 The myst'ry deep of being sav'd by grace.
 Of this nor is the nat'ral conscience skill'd;
 Nor will admit it, when it is reveal'd;
 But pushes at the gospel like a ram.
 As proxy for the law, against the Lamb.

The proud self-righteous Pharisaic strain
 Is, "Blest be God I'm not like other men;
 "I read and pray, give alms, I mourn and fast,
 "And therefore hope I'll get to heav'n at last:
 "For, tho' from ev'ry sin I be not free,
 "Great multitudes of men are worse than me.
 "I'm none of those that swear, cheat, drink and whore."
 Thus on the law he builds his *Babel* tow'r.

Yea, ev'n the vilest cursed debauchee
 Will make the law of works his very plea;
 " Why, (says the rake), what rake you me to be?
 " A Turk or infidel (you lye) I can't
 " Be term'd so base, but by a sycophant;
 " Only I hate to act the whining saint.
 " I am a Christian true; and therefore bode,
 " It shall be well with me, I hope in God.
 " An't I an honest man? yea I defy
 " The tongue that dare assert black to mine eye."
 Perhaps, when the reprover turns his back,
 He'll vend the viler wares o's op'ned pack,
 And with his fellows, in a strain more big,
 " Bid damn the base, uncharitable whig.
 " These scoundrel hypocrites (he'll proudly say)
 " Think none shall ever merit heav'n but they.
 " And yet we may compete with them; for see,
 " The best have blemishes as well as we.
 " We have as good a heart (we trust) as these,
 " Tho' not their vain superfluous shew and blaze.
 " Bigotted zealots, whose foul crimes are hid,
 " Would damn us all to hell; but God forbid.
 " Whatever such a whining sect profess,
 " 'Tis but a nice, morose, affected dress.
 " And tho' we don't pretend so much as they,
 " We hope to compass heav'n a shorter way;
 " We seek God's mercy, and are all along
 " Most free of malice, and do no man wrong.
 " But whims phantastic sha'n't our heads annoy,
 " That would our social liberties destroy.
 " Sure, right religion never was design'd
 " To mar the native mirth of human kind. (such!
 " How weak are those that would be thought non-
 " How mad, that would be righteous o'er much!

" We

"We have sufficient, tho' we be not cramm'd:
We'll therefore hope the best, let them be damn'd."

Ah horrid talk! yet so the legal strain
Lards ev'n the language of the most profane.
Thus dev'lish pride o'erlooks a thousand faults,
And on a legal ground itself exalts.
This DO and LIVE, tho' doing pow'r be lost,
In ev'ry mortal is proud nature's boast.
How does a vain conceit of goodness swell
And feed false hope, amidst the shades of hell!
Shall we, who should by gospel-methods draw,
Send sinners to their nat'ral spouse the law;
And harp upon the doing string to such,
Who ignorantly dream they do so much?
Why, thus instead of courting *Christ* a bride,
We harden rebels in their native pride.

Much rather ought we in God's name to place
His great artill'ry straight against their face;
And throw hot *Sinai* thunder bolts around,
To burn their tow'ring hopes down to the ground.
To make the pillars of their pride to shake,
And damn their doings to the burning lake.
To curse the *doers* unto endless thrall,
That never did continue to do all *.
To scorch their conscience with the flaming air,
And sink their haughty hopes in deep despair;
Denouncing *Ebal's* black revenging doom,
To blast their expectation in the bloom;
'Till once vain hope of life by works give place
Unto a solid hope of life by grace.

The vig'rous use of means is safely urg'd,
When pressing calls from legal dregs are purg'd;
But most unsafely in a fed'ral drels,
Confounding terms of life with means of grace.

Oh dang'rous is th' attempt proud flesh to please,
 Or send a sinner to the law for ease;
 Who rather needs to feel its piercing dart,
 'Till dreadful pangs invade his trembling heart;
 And thither should be only sent for flames
 Of fire to burn his rotten hopes and claims;
 That thus disarm'd, he gladly may embrace,
 And grasp with eagerness the news of grace.

S E C T. V.

The gospel of divine grace the only means of converting sinners, and should be preached therefore most clearly, fully, and freely.

TH E Y ought, who royal grace's heralds be,
 To trumpet loud salvation full and free;
 Nor safely can, to humour mortal pride,
 In silence evangelic myst'ries hide.
 What heav'n is pleas'd to give, dare we refuse,
 Or under ground conceal, lest men abuse?
 Suppress the gospel flow'r, upon pretence
 That some vile spiders may suck poison thence?
Christ is a stumbling-block; shall we neglect
 To preach him, lest the blind should break their
 That high he's for the fall of many set (neck?
 As well as for the rise, must prove no let.
 No grain of precious truth must be suppress,
 Though reprobates should to their ruin wrest.
 Shall heav'n's corruscant lamp be dim'd, that pays
 Its daily tribute down in golden rays?
 Because some, blinded with the blazing gleams,
 Share not the pleasure of the lightning beams.
 Let those be hardned, petrify'd and harm'd,
 The rest are mollify'd and kindly warn'd.

A various favour †, flow'rs in grace's field,
Of life to some, of death to others yield.
Must then the rose be vail'd, the lily hid,
The fragrant favour stifled? God forbid.

The revelation of the gospel flow'r,
Is still the organ fam'd of saving pow'r;
Most justly then are legal minds condemn'd,
That of the glorious gospel are ashamed:
For this the divine arm, and only this,
The pow'r of God unto salvation is ‡.
For therein is reveal'd, to screen from wrath,
The righteousness of God from faith to faith.
The happy change in guilty sinners case
They owe to free displays of sov'reign grace;
Whose joyful tidings of amazing love
The ministration of the Spirit prove.
The glorious vent the gospel news express,
Of God's free grace, thro' Christ's full righteousness,
Is heav'n's gay chariot where the spirit bides,
And in his conqu'ring pow'r triumphant rides.
The gospel-field is still the Spirit's soil,
The golden pipe that bears the holy oil:
The orb where he outlines the radiant sun,
The silver channel where his graces run.
Within the gospel-banks his flowing tide
Of lightning, quickening motions sweetly glide.
Received ye the Spirit, scripture saith §,
By legal works, or by the word of faith?
If by the gospel only, then let none
Dare to be wiser than the wisest one.

We must, who freely get, as freely give
The vital word that makes the dead to live.
For ey'n to sinners dead within our reach
We in his living name may most successful preach.

The Spirit and the scripture both agree
Jointly (says *Christ*) to *testify of me*.

The preacher then will from his text decline,
That scorns to harmonize with this design.

Presents moral duties to the last degree:

Why not? but mind, lest we successless be,

No light, no hope, no strength from duties spring,
Where *Jesus* is not Prophet, Priest, and King. }

No light to see the way unless he *teach*, }

No joyful hope save in his *blood* we reach, }

No strength unless his royal *arm* he stretch. }

Then from our leading scope how gross we fall, }

If, like his name in ev'ry gospel-call, }

We make not him the *First*, the *Last*, the *All*! }

Our office is to bear the radiant torch

Of gospel-light into the darned porch

Of human understandings, and display

The joyful dawn of everlasting day;

To draw the golden chariot of free grace,

The darkened shades with shining rays to chase,

'Till heav'n's bright lamp on circling wheels be hurl'd,

With sparkling grandeur round the dusky world;

And thus to bring, in dying mortals sight,

New life and immortality to light.

We're charg'd to *preach the gospel*, unconfin'd,

To ev'ry creature of the human kind;

To call with renders of salvation free,

All corners of the earth to *come and see*:

And ev'ry sinner most excuseless make,

By urging rich and poor to *come and take*.

Ho, every one that thirsts †, is grace's call

Direct to needy sinners great and small;

Not meaning those alone, whose holy thirst

Denominates their souls already blast.

† *Isa.* lv. l. 2.

If only those were call'd, then none but saints;
Nor would the gospel suit the sinner's wants.
But here the call does signally import
Sinners and thirsty souls of ev'ry sort;
And mainly to their door the message brings,
Who yet are thirsting after empty things;
Who spend their means no living bread to buy,
And pains for that which cannot satisfy.
Such thirsty sinners here invited are,
Who vainly spend their money, thought, and care,
On passing shades, vile lusts, and trash so base
As yield immortal souls no true solace.
The call directs them, as they would be blest,
To chuse a purer object of their thirst.
All are invited by the joyful sound
To drink who need, as does the parched ground,
Whose wide-mouth'd clefts speak to the brazen sky.
Its passive thirst, without an active cry.

The gospel-preacher then with holy skill
Must offer *Christ* to whosoever will,
To sinners of all sorts that can be nam'd;
The blind, the lame, the poor, the halt, the maim'd.
Not daring to restrict th' extensive call,
But op'ning wide the net to catch 'em all.
No soul must be excluded that will come,
Nor right of access be confin'd to some.
Tho' none will come till conscious of their want,
Yet right to come they have by sov'reign grant;
Such right to *Christ*, his promise, and his grace,
That all are damn'd who hear and don't embrace.
So freely is th' unbounded call dispens'd,
We therein find ev'n sinners unconvinc'd;

Who know not they are naked, blind, and poor †,
 Counsel'd to buy or beg at Jesus' door, (store
 And take the glorious robe, eye-salve, and golden
 This prize they are oblig'd by faith to win,
 Else unbelief would never be their sin.
 Yea, gospel-offers but a sham we make,
 If ev'ry sinner has not right to take.

Be gospel-heralds fortify'd from this,
 To trumpet grace, howe'er the serpent hiss.
 Did hell's malicious mouth in dreadful shape
 'Gainst innocence itself malignant gape?
 Then sacred truth's devoted vouchers may
 For due reproach their measures constant lay.
 With cruel calumny of old commenc'd,
This sect will ev'ry where be spoke against;
 While to and fro he runs the earth across
 Whose name is ADELPHON KATEGOROS §.
 In spite of hell be then our constant strife
 To win the glorious Lamb a virgin-wife.

C H A P. VI.

An exhortation to all that are out of CHRIST; in
 in order to their closing the match with him:
 Containing also motives and directions.

REader, into thine hands these lines are giv'n,
 But not without the providence of heav'n;
 Or to advance thy blifs, if thou art wise,
 Or aggravate thy wo, if thou despise.
 For thee, for thee, perhaps the omniscient ken
 Has form'd the counsel here, and led the pen.
 The writer then does thy attention plead,
 In his great name that gave thee eyes to read.

S E C T.

† Rev. iii. 17. 18. § Or, *The accuser of the brethren,*

S E C T. I.

Conviction offered to sinners, especially such as are wedded strictly to the law, or self-righteous, that they may see their need of CHRIST'S righteousness.

IF never yet thou didst fair *Jesus* wed,
Nor yield thy heart to be his marriage-bed;
But hitherto art wedded to the law,
Which never could thy chain'd affections draw
From brutish lusts and sordid lovers charms;
Lo! thou art yet in Satan's folded arms.
Hell's pow'r invisible thy soul retains
His captive slave, lock'd up in massy chains.
O sinner then, as thou regard'st thy life,
Seek, seek with ardent care and earnest strife
To be the glorious Lamb's betrothed wife.
For base co-rivals never let him lose
Thy heart, his bed of conjugal repose.
Wed *Christ* alone, and with severe remorse
From other mates pursue a clean divorce;
For they thy ruin seek by fraud or force.
As lurking serpents in the shady bow'rs
Conceal their malice under spreading flow'rs;
So thy deceitful lusts with cruel spite
Hide ghastly danger under gay delight.

Art thou a legal zealot, soft or rude,
Renounce thy nat'ral and acquired good.
As base deceitful lusts may work thy smart,
So may deceitful frames upon thy heart.
Seeming good motions may in some be found;
Much joy in *hearing*, like the stony ground;
Much sorrow too in *praying*, as appears
In *Esau's* careful suit with rueful tears.

Touching the law, they blameless may appear,
 From spurious views most specious virtues bear.
 Nor merely be devout in mens esteem,
 But prove to be sincerely what they seem,
 Friends to the holy law in heart and life,
 Suers of heav'n with utmost legal strife;
 Yet still, with innate pride so rankly spic'd,
 Converted but to duties, not to *Christ*,
 That *Publicans and harlots heav'n obtain* -
 Before a crew so righteous and so vain.
 Sooner will those shake off their vicious dress,
 Than these blind zealots will their righteousness,
 Who judge they have (which fortifies their pride)
 The law of God it self upon their side.
 Old nature, new-bruth'd up with legal pains,
 Such strict attachment to the law retains,
 No means, no motives can to *Jesus* draw
 Vain souls, so doubly wedded to the law.

But wouldst the glorious Prince in marriage have,
 Know that thy nat'ral husband cannot save.
 Thy best essays to pay the legal rent
 Can never in the least the law content.
 Didst thou in pray'rs employ the morning light,
 In tears and groans the watches of the night,
 Pass thy whole life in close devotion o'er;
 'Tis nothing to the law still craving more.
 There's no proportion 'twixt its high commands
 And puny works from thy polluted hands;
 Perfection is the least that it demands.

Wouldst enter into life, then keep the law,
 But keep it perfectly without a flaw.
 It won't have less, nor will abate at last
 A drop of vengeance for the sin that's past.
 Tell, sinful mortal, is thy stock so large
 As duly can defray this double charge?

“ Why these are mere impossibles” (sayst thou)
 Yea, truly so they are ; and therefore now,
 That down thy legal confidence may fall,
 The law's black doom home to thy bosom call.

“ Lo ! I (the divine law) demand no less
 “ Than perfect, everlasting righteousness;
 “ But thou hast fail'd, and lost thy strength to DO:
 “ Therefore I doom thee to eternal wo;
 “ In prison close to be shut up for ay,
 “ Ere I be baffled with thy partial pay.
 “ Thou always didst and dost my precepts break,
 “ I therefore curse thee to the burning lake.
 “ In God the great lawgiver's glorious name,
 “ I judge thy soul to everlasting shame.”

No flesh can by the law be justified;
 Yet dar'est thou thy legal duties plead?
 As *Paul* appeal'd to *Cæsar*, wilt thou so
 Unto the law? then to it thou shalt go,
 And find it doom thee to eternal wo.

What, would ye have us plung'd in deep despair?
 Amen, yea, God himself would have you there.
 His will it is that you despair of life,
 And safety by the law or legal strife;
 That cleanly thence divorc'd at any rate
 His fairest Son may have a faithful mate.
 'Till this law-sentence pass within your breast.
 You'll never wed the law-discharging Priest.
 You prize not heav'n till he thro' hell you draw,
 Nor love the gospel till you know the law.

Know then the divine law most perfect cares
 For none of thy imperfect legal wares;
 Dooms thee to vengeance for thy sinful state,
 As well as sinful actions small or great.
 If any sin can be accounted small,
 To hell it dooms thy soul for one and all.

62 G O S P E L S O N N E I S.
For sins of nature, practice, heart and way,
Damnation-rent it summons thee to pay.
Yea, not for sin alone which is thy shame,
But for thy boasted service too, so lame,
The law adjudges thee and hell to meet,
Because thy righteousness is uncomplete.
As tow'ring flames burn up the wither'd flags
So will the fiery law thy filthy rags.

S E C T. II.

*Direction given with reference to the right use of the
means, that we rest not on these instead of CHRIST
the glorious Husband, in whom our help lies.*

ADAM, where art thou? Soul where art thou now?

Oh, art thou saying, Sir, *what shall I do?*
I dare not use that proud self raising strain,
Go help yourself, and God will help you then.
Nay, rather know, O *Isra'l*, that *thou* hast
Destroy'd thyself, and canst not in the least
From sin nor wrath thyself the captive free.
Thy help (says Jesus) *only lies in me.*
Heav'n's oracles direct to him alone,
Full help is laid upon this mighty One.
In him. in him complete salvation dwells;
He's God the help, and *there is none else.*
Fig-leaves won't hide thee from the fiery show'r,
'Tis he alone than saves by price and pow'r.

Must we do nothing then (will mockers say)
But rest in sloth till heav'n the help convey?
Pray, stop a little, sinner, don't abuse
God's awful word, that charges thee to use
Means, ordinances, which he's pleas'd to place,
As precious channels of his pow'rful grace.

Reflections

Restless improve all these, until from heav'n
The whole salvation needful thus be giv'n.
Wait in this path, according to his call,
On him whose power alone effecteth all.
Wouldst thou him wed, in duties wait I say,
But marry not thy duties by the way.
Thou'lt woefully come short of saving grace,
If duties only be thy resting-place.
Nay, *go a little further* through them all,
To him whose office is to save from thrall.
Thus in a gospel-manner hopeful wait,
Striving to enter by the narrow gate;
So strait and narrow, that it won't admit
The bunch upon thy back to enter it.
Not only bulky lusts may cease to press,
But ev'n the bunch of boasted righteousness,

*Many as in the sacred page we see,
Shall strive to enter, but unable be :*
Because, mistaking this new way of life,
They push a legal, not a gospel strife:
As if their duties did *Jehovah* bind,
Because 'tis written, *Seek and ye shall find.*
Perverted scripture does their error fence,
They read the *letter*, but neglect the *sense*.
While to the word no gospel-gloss they give,
Their *seek* and *find's* the same with *do* and *live*.
Hence would they a connection native place
Between their moral pains and saving grace :
Their nat'ral poor essays they judge won't miss
In justice to infer eternal bliss.

Thus commentaries on the word they make,
Which to their ruin are a grand mistake ;
For, through the legal bias in their breast,
They scripture to their own destruction wrest.

Why,

Why, *if we seek we get*, they gather hence:
Which is not truth, save in the scripture-sense.
There *Jesus* deals with friends, and elsewhere faith,
These seekers only speed that *ask in faith*.
The prayer of the wicked is abhorr'd,
As an abomination to the Lord.

Their *suits* are sin, but their *neglects* no less,
Which can't their guilt diminish, but increase:
They ought, like beggars, lie in grace's way;
Hence *Peter* taught the forcerer to pray:
For tho' mere nat'ral men's address or pray'rs
Can no acceptance gain as works of theirs,
Nor have, as their *performance*, any sway;
Yet as a divine *ordinance* they may.
But spotless truth has bound itself to grant
The suit of none but the believing saint.

In *Jesus* persons once accepted, do
Acceptance find in him for duties too.
For he, whose Son they do in marriage take,
Is bound to hear them for their husband's sake.

But let no *Christless* soul at pray'r appear,
As if *Jehovah* were oblig'd to hear:
But use the means, because a sov'reign God
May come with alms in this his wonted road.
He wills thee to frequent kind wisdom's gate,
To read, hear, meditate, to pray and wait:
Thy spirit then be on these duties bent,
As gospel means, but not as legal rent.
From these don't thy salvation hope nor claim,
But from *Jehovah* in the use of them.
The beggar's spirit never was so dull,
While waiting at the gate call'd *Beautiful*,
To hope for succour from the temple-gate,
At which he daily did so careful wait;

But from the rich and charitable sort,
Who to the temple daily made resort.
Means, ordinances, are the comely gate,
At which kind heav'n has bid us constant wait:
Not that from these we have our alms, but from
The lib'ral God, who there is wont to come.
If either we these means shall dare neglect,
Or yet from these th' enriching bliss expect,
We from the glory of the King defalk,
Who in the galleries is wont to walk;
We move not regular in duties road,
But base, invert them to an idol-god.

Seek then, if gospel-means you would essay,
Through grace to use them in a gospel-way:
Not deeming that your duties are the price
Of divine favour, or of paradise;
Nor that your best efforts employ'd in these
Are fit exploits your awful Judge to please.
Why, thus you basely idolize your truth,
And make it with the blood of *Jesus* clath.
You'd buy the blessing with your vile refuse,
And so his precious righteousness abuse
What! buy his gifts with filthy lumber? nay,
Whoever offers this, must hear him say,
Thy money perish with thy soul for ay.

Duties are means, which to the marriage-bed
Should chasteely lead us like a chamber maid;
But if with her instead of *Christ* we match,
We not our safety, but our ruin hatch.
To *Caesar* what is *Caesar's* should be giv'n,
But *Caesar* must not have what's due to heav'n:
So duties should have duty's room, 'tis true,
But nothing of the glorious husband's due.
While means the debt of close attendance crave,
Our whole dependence God alone must have.

If duties, tears, our conscience pacify,
 They with the blood of *Christ* presume to vie.
 Means are his vassals; shall we without grudge
 Discard the master, and espouse the drudge?
 The hypocrite, the legalist does sin,
 To live on duties, not on *Christ* therein.
 He only feeds on empty dishes, plates,
 Who dotes on means, but at the *manna* frets.
 Let never means content thy soul at all,
 Without the husband, who is *all in all*.
 Cry daily for the happy marriage-hour;
 To thee belongs the mean, to him the pow'r.

S E C T. III.

*A call to believe in JESUS CHRIST, with some hints
 at the act and object of faith.*

FRIEND, is the question on thy heart engrav'd,
What shall I do to be for ever sav'd?
 Lo! here's a living rock to build upon;
Believe in Jesus; and on him alone
 For righteousness and strength thine anchor drop,
 Renouncing all thy former legal hope.
 "Believe (say you) I can no more believe,
 "Than keep the law of works. the DO and LIVE.
 True, and it were thy mercy didst thou see
 Thine utter want of all ability.
 New cov'nant graces he alone can grant
 Whom *God has giv'n to be the covenant;*
 E'en *Jesus*, whom the sacred letters call
 Faith's object, author, finisher, and all;
 In him alone, not in thy act of faith,
 Thy soul believing full salvation hath.

In this new cov'nant judge not faith to hold
 The room of perfect doing in the old.
 Faith is not giv'n to be the fed'ral price
 Of other blessings, or of paradise;

But

But heav'n, by giving this strikes out a door
At which is carry'd in still more and more.
No sinner must upon his faith lay stress,
As if it were a perfect righteousness.
God ne'er assign'd unto it such a place,
'Tis but at best a bankrupt begging grace.
Its object makes its fame to fly abroad,
So close it grips the righteousness of God;
Which righteousness receiv'd, is (without strife)
The true condition of eternal life.

But still (say you) pow'r to believe I miss.
You may; but know you what believing is?
Faith lies not in your building up a tow'r
Of some great action by your proper pow'r.
For heav'n well knows, that by the killing fall
No pow'r, no will remains in man at all
For acts divinely good; 'till sov'reign grace
By pow'rful drawing virtue turn the chase.
Hence none believe in *Jesus*, as they ought,
'Till once they first believe they can do nought, }
Nor are sufficient e'en to form a thought.
They're conscious, in the right believing hour,
Of human weakness, and of divine pow'r.
Faith acts not in the sense of strength and might,
But in the sense of weakness acts outright.
It is (no boasting arm of pow'r or length)
But *weakness acting on Almighty strength.*
It is the pow'rless, helpless sinners flight
Into the open arms of saving might:
'Tis an employing *Jesus* to do all,
That can within salvation's compass fall;
To be the agent kind in ev'ry thing
Belonging to a prophet, priest, and king;
To reach, to pardon, sanctify, and save,
And nothing to the creature's pow'r to leave.

Faith makes us joyfully content that he
 Our head, our husband, and our All should be,
 Our righteousness and strength, our rock and store,
 Our fund for food and raiment, grace and glore.
 It makes the creature down to nothing fall,
 Content that *Christ* alone be all in all

The plan of grace is faith's delightful view,
 With which it closes both as good and true.
 Unto the *truth* the *mind's assent* is full,
 Unto the *good* a free *consenting will*.
 The holy Spirit here, the agent chief,
 Creates this faith, and dashes unbelief.
 That very God who calls us to believe,
 The very faith he seeks, must also give.
 Why calls he then? (say you) Pray, man, be wise ;
 Why did he call dead *Lazarus* to rise ?
 Because the orders in their bosom bear
 Almighty pow'r to make the carcase hear.

But heav'n may not this mighty pow'r display.
 Most true ; yet still thou art oblig'd t' obey,
 But God is not at all oblig'd to stretch
 His saving arm to such a sinful wretch.
 All who within sa'luation-rolls have place
 Are sav'd by a prerogative of grace :
 But vessels all that shall with wrath be cram'd
 Are by an act of holy justice damn'd.
 Take then, dear soul, as from a friendly heart,
 The counsel which the following lines impart.

S E C T. IV.

An advice to sinners to apply to the sovereign mercy of God, as it is discovered through CHRIST, to the highest honour of justice and other divine attributes, in order to further their faith in him unto salvation.

GO friend, and at *Jehovah's* footstool bow ;
 Thou know'st not what a sov'reign God may do
 Confess, if he commiserate thy case,
 'Twill be an act of pow'rful sov'reign grace.
 Sequestrate carefully some solemn hours,
 To sue thy grand concern in secret bow'rs.
 Then in th' ensuing strain to God impart
 And pour into his bosom all thy heart.
 " O glorious, gracious, pow'rful, sov'reign Lord,
 " Thy help unto a sinful worm afford ;
 " Who from my wretched birth to this sad hour
 " Have still been destitute of will and pow'r
 " To close with glorious *Christ* ; yea, fill'd with spite
 " At thy fair darling, and thy saints delight,
 " Resisting all his grace with all my might.
 " Come, Lord, and sap my enmity's strong tow'r ;
 " O haste the marriage day, the day of pow'r :
 " That sweetly, by resistless grace inclin'd,
 " My once reluctant be a willing mind.
 " Thou spak'st to being ev'ry thing we see,
 " When thy almighty will said, *Let it be*,
 " Nothings to being in a moment pass :
 " *Let there be light, thou said'st, and so it was.*
 " A pow'rful word like this, a mighty call,
 " Must say, *Let there be faith, and need is shall.*
 " Thou seek'st my faith and flight from sin and guilt,
 " Give what thou seek'st, Lord, then seek what thou
 " What good can issue from a root so ill ? I wilt.
 " This heart of mine's a wicked lump of hell ;
 " 'Till all the common notions still resist,
 " Uplift with eternal drawing virtue blest.
 " Thou com'st, but with the call thy pow'r convey
 " Command me to believe, and I'll obey,
 " Nor any more thy gracious call gainfay.

" Com-

" Command, O Lord, effectually command,
 " And grant I be not able to withstand;
 " Then pow'rless I will stretch the wither'd hand
 " I to thy favour can pretend no claim,
 " But what is borrow'd from thy glorious name;
 " Which tho' most justly thou mayst glorifie,
 " In damning such a guilty wretch as me,
 " A faggot fitted for the burning fire
 " Of thine incensed everlasting ire:
 " Yet, Lord, since now I hear thy glorious Son,
 " In favour of a race that was undone,
 " Did in thy name, by thy authority,
 " Once to the full stern justice satisfy;
 " And paid more glorious tribute thereunto
 " Than hell and all its torments e'er can do.
 " Since my salvation thro' his blood can raise
 " A revenue to justice' highest praise,
 " Higher than rents, which hell for ever pays:
 " These to tremendous justice never bring
 " A satisfaction equal and condign.
 " But *Jesus* our once dying God performs,
 " What never could by ever dying worms:
 " Since thus thy threatening law is honour'd more
 " Than e'er my sins affronted it before:
 " Since justice stern may greater glory won,
 " By justifying in thy darling Son,
 " Than by condemning ev'n the rebel me;
 " To this device of wisdom, lo! I flee.
 " Let justice, Lord, according to thy will,
 " Be glorify'd with glory great and full;
 " Not now in hell, where justice petty pay
 " Is but extorted parcels minc'd for ay:
 " But glorify'd in *Christ*, who down has told
 " The total sum at once in liquid gold.

“ In lowest hell low praise is only won,
“ But justice has the highest in thy Son,
“ The Sun of righteousness that set in red,
“ To shew the glorious morning would succeed.
“ In him then save thou me from sin and shame,
“ And to the highest glorify thy name.
“ Since this bright scene thy glories all express,
“ And *grace* as empress *reigns thro’ righteousness*;
“ Since mercy fair runs in a crimson flood:
“ And vents thro’ justice-satisfying blood:
“ Not only then for mercy’s sake I sue,
“ But for the glory of thy justice too.
“ And since each letter of thy name divine
“ Has in fair *Jesus’* face the brightest shine,
“ This glorious husband be for ever mine. }
“ On this strong argument so sweet, so blest,
“ With thy allowance, Lord, I must insist,
“ Great God, since thou allow’st unworthy me
“ To make thy glorious name my humble plea;
“ No glory of it wilt thou gain
“ By casting me into the burning main.
“ My feeble back can never suit the load,
“ That speaks thy name a sin-revenging God.
“ Scarce would that name seem a consuming fire
“ Upon a worm unworthy of thine ire.
“ But see the worthy Lamb, the chosen Priest,
“ With justice’ burning-glass against his breast,
“ Contracting all the beams of ’venging wrath,
“ As in their centre, ’till he burnt to death.
“ Vengeance can never be so much proclaim’d
“ By scatter’d beams among the millions damn’d.
“ Then, Lord, in him me to the utmost save,
“ And thou shalt glory to the highest have:

“ Glory

“ Glory to *wisdom* that contriv’d so well!
 “ Glory to *pow’r* that bore and bury’d hell!
 “ Glory to *holiness* which sin defac’d,
 “ With sinless service now divinely grac’d!
 “ Glory to *justice*’ sword that flaming stood,
 “ Now drunk to pleasure with atoning blood!
 “ Glory to *truth* that now in scarlet clad,
 “ Has seal’d both threats and promises with red!
 “ Glory to *mercy* now in purple streams,
 “ So sweetly gliding thro’ the divine flames
 “ Of other once offended, now exalted names!
 “ Each attribute conspires with joint embrace,
 “ To shew its sparkling rays in *Jesus*’ face;
 “ And thus to deck the crown of matchless grace.
 “ But to thy name in hell ne’er can accrue
 “ The thousandth part of this great revenue.
 “ O ravishing contrivance! light that blinds
 “ Cherubic gazers, and seraphic minds.
 “ They pry into the deep, and love to learn
 “ What yet should vastly more be my concern.
 “ Lord, once my hope most reasonless could dream
 “ Of heav’n, without regard to thy great name:
 “ But here is laid, my lasting hope to found,
 “ A high, a rational, a divine ground.
 “ ’Tis reasonable, I expect thou’lt take
 “ The way that most will for thine honour make.
 “ Is this the plan? Lord, let me build my claim
 “ To life, on this high glory of thy name.
 “ Nor let my faithless heart or think, or say,
 “ That all this glory shall be thrown away
 “ In my perdition; which will never raise
 “ To thy great name so vast a rent of praise.
 “ O then a rebel into favour take;
 “ Lord, shield and save me for thy glory’s sake.

“ My

" My endless ruin is not worth the cost,
" That so much glory be for ever lost.
" I'll of the greatest sinner bear the shame,
" To bring the greatest honour to thy name.
" Small loss, tho' I should perish endless days,
" But thousand pities grace should lose the pr
" O hear, *Jehovah*, get the glory then,
" And to my supplication say, *Amen.*"

S E C T. V.

*The terrible doom of unbelievers, and rejecters of
CHRIST, or despisers of the gospel.*

THUS, sinner, into *Jesus*' bosom flee,
Then there is hope in *Isra'l* sure for thee.
Slight not the call, as running by in rhyme.
Lest thou repent for ay, if not in time.
'Tis most unlawful to contemn and shun
All wholsom counsels that in metre run;
Since the prime fountains of the sacred writ
Much heav'nly truth in holy rhimes transmit.
If this don't please, yet hence it is no crime
To versify the word, and preach in rhyme.
But, in whatever mould the doctrine lies,
Some erring minds will gospel-truth despise
Without remede, till heav'n anoint their eyes
These lines pretend no conqu'ring art nor skill,
But shew in weak attempts a strong good-will
To mortify all native legal pride,
And court the Lamb of God a virgin-bride.
If he thy conjunct match be never giv'n,
Thou'rt doom'd to hell, as sure as God's in heav'n.
If gospel grace and goodness don't thee draw,
Thou art condemn'd already by the law.

Yea, hence damnation, deep will doubly brace
 If still thy heart contemn redeeming grace.
 No argument from fear or hope will move,
 Or draw thy heart, if not the bond of love:
 Nor flowing joys, nor flaming terrors chase
 To *Christ* the hav'n, without the gales of grace.
 O slighter then of grace's joyful sound,
 Thou'rt over to the wrathful ocean bound.
 Anon thou'lt sink into the gulph of woes,
 Whene'er thy wasting hours are at a close;
 The false old legal hope will then be lost,
 And with thy wretched soul give up the ghost.
 Then farewell God and *Christ*, and grace and gloire;
 Undone thou art, undone for evermore,
 For ever sinking underneath the load
 And pressure of a sin-revenging God.
 The sacred awful text asserts, *To fall*
Into his living hand is fearful thrall;
When no more sacrifice for sin remains,
 But ever-living wrath, and lasting chains:
 Heav'n still upholding life in dreadful death,
 Still throwing down hot thunderbolts of wrath,
 As full of terror, and as manifold,
 As finite vessels of his wrath can hold.
 Then, then we may suppose the wretch to cry,
 " Oh, if this damning God would let me die,
 " And not torment me to eternity !
 " Why from the silent womb of stupid earth
 " Did heav'n awake, and push me into birth?
 " Curs'd be the day that ever gave me life,
 " Curs'd be the cruel parents, man and wife,
 " Means of my being, instruments of woe;
 " For now i'm damn'd, I'm damn'd, and always so.
 " Curs'd be the day that ever made me hear
 " The gospel-call, which brought salvation near.

" The endless sound of slighted mercy's bell,
" Has in my ears the most tormenting knell.
" Of offer'd grace I vain repent the loss,
" The joyful sound with horror recognise.
" The hollow vault reverberates the sound,
" This killing echo strikes the deepest wound,
" And with too late remorse does now confound. }
" Into the dungeon of despair I'm lock'd,
" Th' once open door of hope for ever block'd :
" Hopeless, I sink into the dark abyss,
" Banish'd for ever from eternal bliss.
" In boiling waves of vengeance must I lie ?
" O could I curse this dreadful God, and die ?
" Infinite years in torment shall I spend,
" And never, never, never, at an end ?
" Ah! must I live in torturing despair
" As many years as atoms in the air ?
" When these are spent, as many thousands more
" As grains of sand that croud the ebbing shore ?
" When these are done, as many yet behind
" As leaves of forest shaken with the wind ?
" When these are gone, as many to ensue
" As stems of grass on hills and dales that grew ?
" When these run out, as many on the march
" As starry lamps that gild the spangled arch ?
" When these expire, as many millions more
" As moments in the millions past before ?
" When all these doleful years are spent in pain,
" And multiply'd by *myriads* again,
" Till numbers drown the thought; could I suppose
" That then my wretched years were at a close,
" This would afford some ease: but, ah! I shiver
" To think upon the dreadful sound, *For ever,*

" The burning gulph, where I blaspheming lie,
 " Is time no more, but vast *eternity*.
 " The growing torment I endure for sin,
 " Thro' ages all is always to begin.
 " How did I but a grain of pleasure sow,
 " To reap an harvest of immortal woe?
 " Bound to the bottom of the burning main.
 " Gnawing my chains, I wish for death in vain.
 " Just doom! since I that bear th' eternal load
 " Contemn'd the death of an eternal God.
 " Oh, if the God that curs'd me to the lash,
 " Would bless me back to nothing with a dash!
 " But hopeless I the just avenger hate,
 " Blaspheme the wrathful God, and curse my fate."

To these this word of *terror* I direct,
 Who now the *great salvation* dare neglect:
 To all the *Christ*-despising multitude,
 That trample on the great Redeemer's blood;
 That see no beauty in his glorious face,
 But slight his offers, and refuse his grace.
 A messenger of wrath to none I am,
 But those that hate to wed the worthy Lamb.
 For tho' the smallest sins, if small can be,
 Will plunge the *Christless* soul in misery:
 Yet, lo, the greatest that mortals cleave
 Shan't damn the souls in *Jesus* that believe;
 Because they on the very method fall
 That well can make amends to God for all.
 Whereas proud souls thro' unbelief won't let
 The glorious God a reparation get
 Of all his honour in his darling Son,
 For all the great dishonours they have done.
 A faithless soul the glorious God bereaves
 Of all the satisfaction that he craves;

Hence

Hence under divine hottest fury lies
And with a double vengeance justly dies.
The blackest part of *Tophet* is their place,
Who slight the tenders of redeeming grace.
That sacrilegious monster, *unbelief*,
So hard'ned 'gainst remorse and pious grief,
Rebels God of all the glory of his names,
And ev'ry divine attribute defames.
It loudly calls the truth of God a lye,
The God of truth a liar; horrid cry!
Doubts and denies his precious words of grace,
Spits venom in the royal suitor's face.
This monster cannot cease all sin to hatch,
Because it proudly mars the happy match.
As each law-wedded soul is join'd to sin,
And destitute of holiness within;
So all that wed the law, must wed the curse,
Which rent they scorn to pay with *Christ's* full purse
They clear may read their dreadful doom in brief,
Whose fester'd sore is final unbelief:
Tho' to the law their life exactly fram'd,
For zealous acts and passions too were fam'd,
Yet, lo! *He that believes not, shall be damn'd.* }

*But now 'tis proper, on the other side,
With words of comfort to address the bride.
She in her glorious husband does possess
Adorning grace, acquitting righteousness:
And hence to her pertain the golden mines
Of comfort op'ned in the following lines.*

GOSPEL SONNETS;

OR,

SPIRITUAL SONGS.

PART II.

The BELIEVER'S JOINTURE.

OR,

The POEM continued upon ISAIAH liv. 5. Thy
Maker is thy Husband.

N. B. *The following lines being primarily intended for the use and edification of piously exercised souls, and especially those of a more common and ordinary capacity; the author though fit, thro' the whole of this second part of the book, to continue, as in the former editions, to repeat that part of the text. Thy Husband, in the last line of every verse: because however it tended to limit him, and restrict his liberty of words in the composition, yet having ground to judge that this appropriating compellation, still resumed, had rendered these lines formerly the more savoury to some exercised Christians, to whom the name of CHRIST (particularly as their head and husband) is as ointment poured forth; he chose rather*

ther to subject himself to that restriction, than to withhold what may tend to the satisfaction and comfort of those to whom CHRIST is all in all; and to whom his name, as their husband, so many various ways applied, will be no nauseous repetition.

C H A P. I.

Containing the privileges of the believer that is espoused to CHRIST by faith of divine operation.

S E C T. I.

The BELIEVER'S perfect beauty, free acceptance and full security, through the imputation of CHRIST'S perfect righteousness, though imparted grace be imperfect.

O Happy soul, *Jehovah's* bride,
The Lamb's beloved spouse,
Strong consolation's flowing tide
Thy husband thee allows.

In thee, tho' like thy father's race,
By nature black as hell;
Yet now, so beautify'd by grace,
Thy Husband loves to dwell.

Fair as the moon thy robes appear,
While graces are in dress:
Clear as the sun, while found to wear
Thy Husband's righteousness.

Thy moon like graces, changing much,
Have here and there a spot ;
Thy sun-like glory is not such,
Thy Husband changes not.

Thy white and ruddy vesture fair
Outvies the rosy leaf ;
For 'mong ten thousand beauties rare
Thy Husband is the chief.

Cloth'd with the sun, thy robes of light
The morning rays out-shine ;
The lamps of heav'n are not so bright,
Thy Husband decks thee fine.

Tho' hellish smoke thy duties stain,
And sin deform thee quite ;
Thy Surety's merit makes thee clean,
Thy Husband's beauty white.

Thy pray'rs and tears, nor pure, nor good,
But vile and lothsome seem ;
Yet gain by dipping in his blood,
Thy Husband's high esteem.

No fear thou starve, tho' wants be great,
In him thou art compleat :
Thy hungry soul may hopeful wait,
Thy Husband gives thee meat.

Thy money, merit, pow'r, and pelf,
Were squander'd by thy fall ;
Yet, having nothing in thyself,
Thy Husband is thy all.

Law precepts, threats, may both beset
To crave of thee their due ;

But

But justice for thy double debt
Thy Husband did pursue.

Tho' justice stern as much belong
As mercy to a God ;
Yet justice suffer'd here no wrong,
Thy husband's back was broad.

He bore the load of wrath alone,
That mercy might take vent ;
Heav'n's pointed arrows all upon
Thy Husband's heart were spent.

No partial pay could justice still,
No farthing was retrench'd ;
Vengeance exacted all, until
Thy Husband all advanc'd.

He paid in liquid golden red
Each mite the law requir'd ;
Till, with a loud '*Tis finished*,
Thy Husband's breath expir'd.

No process more the law can 'tent ;
Thou standst without its verge,
And mayst at pleasure now present
Thy Husband's full discharge.

Tho' new contracted guilt beget
New fears of divine ire ;
Yet fear thou not, tho' drown'd in debt ;
Thy Husband is the payer.

God might in rigour thee indite
Of highest crimes and flaws ;
But on thy head no curse can light ;
Thy Husband is the cause.

S E C T. II.

CHRIST *the believer's friend, prophet, priest, king, defence, guide, guard, help, and healer.*

DEAR soul, when all the human race
Lay welt'ring in their gore,
Vast numbers in that dismal case
Thy Husband passed o'er.

But pray, why did he thousands pass,
And set his heart on thee?

The deep, the searchless reason was,
Thy Husband's love is free.

The forms of favour, names of grace,
And offices of love,

He bears for thee, with open face
Thy Husband's kindness prove.

'Gainst darkness black, and error blind,
Thou hast a sun and shield;

And, to reveal the Father's mind,
Thy Husband *Prophet* seal'd.

He likewise, to procure thy peace,
And save from sin's arrest,

Resign'd himself a sacrifice;
Thy Husband is thy *Priest*.

And that he might thy will subject,
And sweetly captive bring,

Thy sins subdued, his throne erect,
Thy Husband is thy *king*.

Tho' num'rous and assaulting foes
Thy joyful peace may mar;

And

And thou a thousand battles lose,
Thy Husband wins the war.
Hell's forces, which thy mind appall,
His arm can soon dispatch;
How strong foe'er, yet for them all
Thy Husband's more than match,
Tho' secret lusts with hid contest,
By heavy groans reveal'd,
And devils rage; yet, do their best,
Thy Husband keeps the field.
When, in desertion's ev'ning dark,
Thy steps are apt to slide,
His conduct seek, his counsel mark,
Thy Husband is thy guide.
In doubts, renouncing self conceit,
His word and Spirit prize:
He never counsell'd wrong as yet,
Thy Husband is so wise.
When weak, thy refuge see'st at hand,
Yet cannot run the length;
'Tis present pow'r to understand
Thy Husband is thy strength.
When shaking storms annoy thy heart,
His word commands a calm:
When bleeding wounds, to ease thy smart
Thy Husband's blood is balm.
Trust creatures, nor to help thy thrall,
Nor to assuage thy grief;
Use means, but look beyond them all,
Thy Husband's thy relief.
If heav'n prescribe a bitter drug,
Fret not with froward will;

This carriage may thy cure prorogue;
 Thy Husband wants not skill.

He sees the sore, he knows the cure
 Will most adapted be;

'Tis then most reasonable, sure,
 Thy Husband chuse for thee.

Friendship is in his chastisements,
 And favour in his frowns;
 Thence judge not then, in heavy complaints,
 Thy Husband thee disowns.

The deeper his sharp lancet go
 in ripping up thy wound,
 The more thy healing shall unto
 Thy Husband's praise redound.

S E C T. III.

*CHRIST the believer's wonderful physician, and
 wealthy friend.*

KIND *Jesus* empties whom he'll fill,
 Casts down whom he will raise;
 He quickens whom he seems to kill;
 Thy Husband thus gets praise.

When awful rods are in his hand,
 There's mercy in his mind;
 When clouds upon his brow do stand,
 'Thy Husband's heart is kind.

In various changes to and fro,
 He'll ever constant prove;
 Nor can his kindness come and go,
 Thy Husband's name is *Love*.

His friends in most afflicted lot
His favour most have felt;
For when they're try'd in furnace hot,
Thy Husband's bowels melt.
When he his bride or wounds or heals,
Heart-kindness does him move;
And wraps in frowns as well as smiles
Thy Husband's lasting love.
In's hand no cure could ever fail,
Tho' of a hopeless state;
He can in desp'rate cases heal,
Thy Husband's art's so great.
The medicine he did prepare,
Can't fail to work for good:
O balsam pow'rful, precious, rare,
Thy Husband's sacred blood:
Which freely from his breached breast
Gush'd out like pent-up fire
His cures are best, his wages least,
Thy Husband takes no hire.
Thou hast no worth, no might, no good;
His favour to procure:
But see his store, his pow'r, his blood;
Thy Husband's never poor.
Himself he humbled wondrously
Once to the lowest pitch,
That bankrupts thro' his poverty
Thy Husband might enrich.
His treasure is more excellent
Than hills of *Ophir* gold:
In telling store were ages spent,
Thy Husband's can't be told.

All things that fly on wings of fame,
 Compar'd with this are dross;
 For searchless riches in his name
 Thy Husband doth engross.

The great IMMANUEL, God man,
 Includes such store divine;
 Angels and saints will never scan
 Thy Husband's golden mine.

He's full of grace and truth indeed,
 Of Spirit, merit, might;
 Of all the wealth that bankrupts need
 Thy Husband's heir by right.

Tho' heav'n's his throne, he came from thence
 To seek and save the lost:
 Whatever be the vast expence,
 Thy Husband's at the cost.

Pleas'd to expend each drop of blood
 That fill'd his royal veins,
 He frank the sacred victim stood;
 Thy husband spar'd no pains.

His cost immense was in thy place,
 Thy freedom cost his thrall;
 Thy glory cost him deep disgrace,
 Thy Husband paid for all.

S E C T. IV.

*The believer's safety under the covert of CHRIST'S
 atoning blood, and powerful intercession.*

WHEN heav'n proclaim'd hot war and wrath,
 And sin increas'd the strife;
 By rich obedience unto death
 Thy Husband bought thy life.

The

The charges could not be abridg'd,
But on these noble terms;
Which all that prize, are hugg'd amidst
Thy Husband's folded arms.
When law condemns, and justice too
To prison would thee hale;
As sureties kind for bankrupts do,
Thy Husband offers bail.
God on these terms is reconcil'd,
And thou his heart hast won;
In *Christ* thou art his favour'd child,
Thy Husband is his Son.
Vindictive wrath is whole appeas'd,
Thou needst not then be mov'd;
In JESUS always he's well pleas'd,
Thy Husband's his *belov'd*.
What can be laid unto thy charge,
When God does not condemn?
Bills of complaint tho' foes enlarge,
Thy Husband answers them.
When fear thy guilty mind confounds,
Full comfort th's may yield;
Thy ransom-bill with blood and wounds
Thy Husband kind has seal'd.
His promise is the fair extract
Thou hast at hand to shew;
Stern justice can no more exact,
Thy Husband paid its due.
No terms he left thee to fulfil,
No clog to mar thy faith;
His bond is sign'd, his latter will
Thy Husband seal'd by death.

The great condition of the band
Of promise and of blifs,
Is wrought by him, and brought to hand,
Thy Husband's righteousnes.
When therefore press'd in time of need
To sue the promis'd good,
Thou hast no more to do but plead
Thy Husband's sealing blood.
This can thee more to God commend,
And cloudy wrath dispel,
Than e'er thy sinning could offend;
Thy Husband vanquish'd hell.
When vengeance seems, for broken laws,
To light on thee with dread,
Let Christ be umpire of thy cause;
Thy Husband well can plead.
He pleads his righteousnes, that brought
All rents the law could crave;
Whate'er its precepts, threat'nings, fought,
Thy Husband fully gave.
Did holiness in precepts stand,
And for perfection call,
Justice in threat'nings death demand?
Thy Husband gave it all.
His blood the fiery law did quench,
Its summons need not fear;
Tho't cite thee to heav'n's awful bench,
Thy Husband's at the bar.
This Advocate has much to say,
His clients need not fear;
For God the Father hears him ay,
Thy Husband hath his ear.

A cause fail'd never in his hand,
So strong his pleading is;
His Father grants his whole demand,
Thy Husband's will is his.
Hell forces all may rendezvous,
Accusers may combine;
Yet fear thou not who art his spouse,
Thy Husband's cause is thine.
By solemn oath JEHOVAH did
His priesthood ratify;
Let earth and hell then counterplead,
Thy Husband gains the plea.

S E C T. V.

*The believer's FAITH and HOPE encouraged, even in
the darkest nights of desertion and distress.*

TH E cunning serpent may accuse,
But never shall succeed;
The God of peace will satan bruise,
Thy Husband broke his head.
Hell-furies threaten to devour,
Like lions robb'd of whelps:
But lo, in ev'ry per'lous hour,
Thy Husband always helps.
That feeble faith may never fail,
Thine Advocate has pray'd;
Tho' winnowing tempests may assail,
Thy Husband's near to aid.
Tho' grievous trials grow apace
And put thee to a stand:
Thou mayst rejoice in ev'ry case,
Thy Husband's help at hand.

Trust

Trust, tho', when in desertion dark,
 No twinkling star by night,
 No ray appear, no glimm'ring spark;
 Thy Husband is thy light.

His beams anon the clouds can rent,
 And thro' the vapours run;
 For of the brightest firmament
 Thy Husband is the sun.

Without the sun who mourning go,
 And scarce the way can find.
He brings thro' paths they do not know;
 Thy Husband leads the blind.

Through fire and water he with skill
Brings to a wealthy land;
 Rude flames and roaring floods, **BE STILL,**
 Thy Husband can command.

When sin disorders heavy brings,
 That press thy soul with weight;
 Then mind how many *crooked things*
 Thy Husband has *made straight*.

Still look to him with longing eyes,
 Tho' both thine eyes should fail;
 Cry, and at length, tho' not thy cries,
 Thy Husband shall prevail.

Still hope for favour at his hand,
 Tho' favour don't appear;
 When help seems most aloof to stand,
 Thy Husband's then most near.

In cases hopeleſs-like, faint hopes
 May fail, and fears annoy;
 But most when stript of earthly props,
 Thy Husband thoult enjoy.

If providence the promise thwart,
And yet thy humbled mind
'Gainst hope believes in hope, thou art
Thy Husband's dearest friend.
Art thou a weakling poor and faint,
In jeopardy each hour?
Let not thy weakness move thy plaint,
Thy Husband has the pow'r.
Dread not the foes that foil'd thee long,
Will ruin thee at length:
When thou art weak, then art thou strong;
Thy Husband is thy strength.
When foes are mighty, many too,
Don't fear nor quit the field;
'Tis not with thee they have to do,
Thy Husband is thy shield.
'Tis hard to fight against an host,
Or strive against the stream:
But lo, when all seems to be lost,
Thy Husband will redeem.

S E C T. VI.

*Benefits accruing to believers, from the offices
names, natures, and sufferings of CHRIST.*

A R T thou by lusts a captive led,
Which breeds thy deepest grief?
To ransom captives is his trade,
Thy Husband's thy relief.
His precious name is JESUS, why?
Because he saves from sin;
Redemption-right he won't deny,
Thy Husband's near of kin.

Tis

His wounds have sav'd thee once from woes,
His blood from vengeance screen'd;
When heav'n, and earth, and hell were foes,
Thy Husband was a friend:

And will thy Captain now look on,
And see thee trampled down?

When, lo, thy Champion, has the throne,
Thy Husband wears the crown.

Yield not, tho' cunning Satan bribe,
Or like a lion rore;

The Lion strong of *Judah's* tribe,
Thy Husband's to the fore.

And *that he never will forsake*,
His credit fair he pawn'd;

In hottest broils, then, courage take,
Thy Husband's at thy hand,

No storm needs drive thee to a strait,
Who does his aid invoke,

Fierce winds may blow, proud waves may beat,
Thy Husband is the Rock.

Renounce thine own ability
Lean to his promis'd might;

The strength of *Isra'l* cannot lye,
Thy Husband's pow'r is plight.

An awful truth does here present,
Who ever think it odd;

In him thou art omnipotent,
Thy Husband is a God.

J E H O V A H's strength is in thy head,
Which faith may boldly scan;

God in thy nature does reside,
Thy Husband is a man.

Thy flesh is his, his Spirit thine;
And that you both are one,
One body, spirit, temple, vine,
Thy Husband deigns to own.
Kind, he assum'd thy flesh and blood
This union to pursue;
And without shame his brotherhood
Thy Husband does avow.
He bore the cross thy crown to win,
His blood he freely spilt;
The holy One assuming sin,
Thy Husband bore the guilt.
Lo, what a bless'd exchange is this?
What wisdom shines therein?
That thou *mightst be made righteousness,*
Thy Husband *was made sin.*
The God of joy a man of grief,
Thy sorrows to discuss;
Pure innocence hang'd as a thief
Thy Husband lov'd thee thus.
Bright beauty had his visage marr'd,
His comely form abus'd:
True rest was from all rest debarr'd,
Thy Husband's heel was bruise'd.
The God of blessings was a curse,
The Lord of lords a drudge,
The heir of all things poor in purse:
Thy Husband did not grudge.
The Judge of all condemned was,
The God immortal slain:
No favour, in thy woful cause,
Thy Husband did obtain.

S E C T. VII.

CHRIST's sufferings further improved; and believers called to live by faith, both when they have and want sensible influences.

L OUD praises sing without surcease,
 To him that frankly came,
 And gave his soul a sacrifice;
 Thy Husband was the lamb.
 What wak'ned vengeance could denounce,
 All round him did beset;
 And never left his soul, till once
 Thy Husband paid the debt.
 And tho' new debt thou still contract,
 And run in deep arrears;
 Yet all thy burdens on his back
 Thy Husband always bears.
 Thy Judge will ne'er demand of thee
 Two payments for one debt;
 Thee with one victim wholly free
 Thy Husband kindly set
 That no grim vengeance might thee meet,
 Thy Husband met with all;
 And, that thy soul might drink the sweet,
 Thy Husband drank the gall.
 Full breasts of joy he loves t' extend,
 Like to a kindly nurse;
 And, that thy bliss might full be gain'd,
 Thy Husband was a curse.
 Thy sins he glu'd unto the tree,
 His blood this virtue hath;

For,

For, that thy heart to sin might die,
Thy Husband suffer'd death.
To purchase fully all thy good,
All evil him beset;
To win thy heav'n with streams of blood
Thy Husband quenched hell.
That this kind DAYS MAN in one band
Might God and man betroth,
He on both parties lays his hand;
Thy Husband pleases both.
The blood that could stern justice please,
And law-demands fulfil,
Can also guilty conscience ease;
Thy Husband clears the bill.
Thy highest glory is obtain'd
By his abasement deep:
And, that thy tears might all be drain'd,
Thy Husband chose to weep.
His bondage all thy freedom bought,
He stoop'd so lowly down;
His grappling all thy grandeur brought,
Thy Husband's cross thy crown.
'Tis by his shock thy scepter sways,
His warfare ends thy strife;
'Tis poverty thy wealth conveys,
Thy Husband's death thy life.
Do mortal damps invade thy heart,
And deadness seize thee sore?
Rejoice in this, that life t' impart
Thy Husband has in store.
And when new life imparted seems
Establish'd as a rock,

Boast in the fountain, not the streams;
 Thy Husband is thy stock.
 The streams may take a various turn,
 The fountain never moves:
 Cease then o'er failing streams to mourn,
 Thy Husband thus thee proves.
 That glad thou mayst, when drops are gone,
 Joy in the spacious sea:
 When incomes fail, then still upon
 Thy Husband keep thine eye.
 But can't thou look, nor moan thy strait,
 So dark's the dismal hour?
 Yet, as thou'rt able, cry, and wait
 Thy Husband's day of power.
 Tell him, though sin prolong the term,
 Yet love can scarce delay:
 Thy want, his promise, all affirm,
 Thy Husband must not stay.

S E C T. VIII.

CHRIST the believer's enriching treasure.

KIND *Jesus* lives, thy life to be
 Who mak'st him thy refuge;
 And, when he comes, thou'lt joy to see
 Thy Husband shall be judge.
 Should passing troubles thee annoy,
 Without, within, or both!
 Since endless life thou'lt then enjoy
 Thy Husband pledg'd his truth.
 What won't he, ev'n in time, impart.
 That's for thy real good?

He gave his love, he gave his heart,
Thy Husband gave his blood.

He gives himself, and what should more?
What can he then refuse?

If this won't please thee, ah how sore
Thy Husband dost abuse!

Earth's fruit, heav'n's dew he won't deny,
Whose eyes thy need behold:
Nought under or above the sky
Thy Husband will with hold.

Dost losses grieve? Since all is thine,
What loss can thee befall?
All things for good to thee combine,
Thy Husband orders all.

Thou'rt not put off with barren leaves,
Or dung of earthly pelf;
More wealth than heav'n and earth he gives,
Thy Husband's thine himself.

Thou hast enough to stay thy plaint,
Else thou complain'st of ease;
For, having all, don't speak of want,
Thy Husband may suffice.

From this thy store, believing, take
Wealth to the utmost pitch:
The gold of *Ophir* cannot make,
Thy Husband makes thee rich.

Some flying gains acquire by pains,
And some by plund'ring toil;
Such treasure fades, but thine remains,
Thy Husband's cannot spoil.

S E C T. IX.

CHRIST *the believer's adorning garment.*

YE A, thou excell'st in rich attire
 The lamp that lights the globe:
 Thy sparkling garment heav'n's admire,
 Thy Husband is thy robe.

This raiment never waxes old,
 'Tis always new and clean:
 From summer-heat, and winter cold,
 Thy Husband can thee screen.

All who the name of worthies bore,
 Since *Adam* was undrest,
 No worth acquir'd, but as they wore
 Thy Husband's purple vest.

This linen fine can beautify
 The soul with sin begirt.
 O blest his name, that e'er on thee
 Thy Husband spread his skirt.

Are dunghills deck'd with flow'ry glore,
 Which *Solomon's* outvie?

Sure this is infinitely more,
 Thy Husband decks the sky.

Thy hands could never work the dress,
 By grace alone thou'rt gay.
 Grace vents and reigns through righteousness,
 Thy Husband's bright array.

To spin thy robe no more dost need
 Than lilies toil for theirs:
 Out of his bowels ev'ry thread
 Thy Husband thine prepares.

S E C T. X.

CHRIST *the believer's sweet nourishment.*

THY food conform to thine array,
Is heav'nly and divine;
On pastures green, where angels play,
Thy Husband feeds thee fine.
Angelic food may make thee fair,
And look with chearful face;
The bread of life, the double share,
Thy Husband's love and grace.
What can he give, or thou desire,
More than his flesh and blood?
Let angels wonder, saints admire,
Thy Husband is thy food!
His flesh the *incarnation* bears,
From whence thy feeding flows;
His blood the *satisfaction* clears:
Thy Husband both bestows.
Th' incarnate God a sacrifice,
To turn the wrathful tide,
Is food for faith; that may suffice
Thy Husband's guilty bride.
This strength'ning food may fit and fence
For work and war to come;
Till through the croud, some moments hence,
Thy Husband bring thee home:
Where plenteous feasting will succeed
To scanty feeding here:
And joyful at the table-head
Thy Husband fair appear.

Then crumbs to banquets will give place,
 And drops to rivers new:
 While heart and eye will face to face
 Thy Husband ever view.

C H A P. II.

Containing the marks and characters of the believer in CHRIST; together with some farther privileges and grounds of comfort to the saints.

S E C T. I.

Doubting believers called to examine, by marks drawn from their love to him and his presence, their view of his glory, and their being emptied of self-righteousness, etc.

GOOD news! but, says the drooping bride,
 Ah! what's all this to me?
 Thou doubt'st thy right when shadows hide
 Thy Husband's face from thee.
 Through sin and guilt thy spirit faints,
 And trembling fears thy fate:
 But harbour not thy groundless plaints,
 Thy Husband's advent wait.
 Thou sobb'st, "O were I sure he's mine,
 This would give glad'ning ease;"
 And say'st, Though wants and woes combine,
 Thy Husband would thee please.

But up, and down, and seldom clear,
Inclos'd with hellish routs;
Yet yield thou not, nor foster fear:
Thy Husband hates thy doubts.
Thy cries and tears may slighted seem,
And barr'd from present ease;
Yet blame thyself, but never dream
Thy Husband's ill to please.
Thy jealous unbelieving heart
Still droops, and knows not why;
Then prove thyself, to ease thy smart,
Thy Husband bids thee try.
The following questions put to thee,
As scripture-marks, may tell
And shew, whate'er thy failings be,
Thy Husband loves thee well.

M A R K S.

ART thou content when he's away?
Can earth allay thy pants?
If conscience witness, won't it say,
Thy Husband's all thou wants?
When he is near, (though in a cross)
And thee with comfort feeds;
Dost thou not count the earth as dross,
Thy Husband all thou needs?
In duties art thou pleas'd or pain'd,
When far he's out of view?
And finding him, think'st all regain'd,
Thy Husband always new?
Though once thou thought'st, while *Sinai* mist
And darkness compass'd thee,

Thou wast undone ; and glorious Christ
Thy Husband ne'er would be :

Yet know'st thou not a fairer place,
Of which it may be told,
That there the glory of his grace
Thy Husband did unfold ?

Where heav'nly beams inflam'd thy soul,
And love's seraphic art,
With hallelujahs, did extol,
Thy Husband in thy heart ?

Could then have wish'd all *Adam's* race
Had join'd with thee to gaze ;
That, viewing fond his comely face,
Thy Husband might get praise ?

Art thou disjoin'd from other lords ?
Divorc'd from fed'ral laws ?
While with most loving gospel-cords
Thy Husband kindly draws ?

A'n't thou enlight'ned, now, to see
Thy righteousness is naught
But rags, that cannot cover thee ?
Thy Husband so has taught.

Dost see thy best performances
Deserve but hell indeed ?

And hence art led, renouncing these,
Thy Husband's blood to plead ?

When strength'ned boldly to address
That gracious throne of his,
Dost find thy strength and righteousness
Thy Husband only is ?

Canst thou thy most exalted frame
Renounce, as with'ring grass,

And

And firmly hold thine only claim,
'Thy Husband's worthiness?
Canst pray with utmost holy * pith,
And yet renounce thy good?
And wash, not with thy tears, but with
Thy Husband's precious blood?

S E C T. II.

Believer's described from their faith acting by divine aid, and fleeing quite out of themselves to CHRIST.

CAN nothing less thy conscience ease,
And please thy heart; no less
Than that which justice satisfies,
Thy Husband's righteousness?
Dost see thy works so stain'd with sin,
That thou through grace art mov'd
To seek acceptance only in
Thy Husband, the belov'd?
Dost thou remind, that once a-day
Free grace did strengthen thee,
To gift thy guilty soul away,
Thy Husband's bride to be?
Or dost thou mind the day of pow'r,
Wherein he broke thy pride,
And gain'd thy heart? O happy hour!
Thy Husband caught the bride!
He did thy enmity subdue,
Thy bondage sad recal,
Made thee to chuse, and close pursue
Thy Husband as thy all.

* *Vigour or strength.*

What rest, and peace, and joy ensu'd
Upon this noble choice?
Thy heart, with flow'rs of pleasure strew'd,
Thy Husband made rejoice.
Dost know thou ne'er couldst him embrace,
Till he embraced thee?
Nor ever see him, till his face
Thy Husband open'd free?
And findest to this very hour,
That this is still the charm;
Thou canst do nothing, till with pow'r
Thy Husband shew his arm!
Canst thou do nought by nature, art,
Or any strength of thine,
Until thy wicked froward heart
Thy Husband shall incline?
But art thou, though without a wing
Of pow'r aloft to flee,
Yet able to do ev'ry thing,
Thy Husband strength'ning thee?
Dost not alone at duties fork,
But foreign aid enjoy?
And still in ev'ry piece of work
Thy Husband's strength employ?
Thy motion heav'nly is indeed;
While thou by faith dost move,
And still in ev'ry time of need
Thy Husband's grace improve.
No common nat'ral faith can shew
Its divine brood like this;
Whose object, author, feeder too,
Thy Husband only is.

Dost

Dost thou by faith on him rely ?
On him, not on thy faith ?
If faith shall with its object vie
Thy Husband's set beneath.
Their hands receiving faculty
Poor beggars never view ;
But hold the royal gift in eye :
Thy Husband so wilt thou.
Faith, like a gazing eye, ne'er waits
To boast its seeing pow'rs ;
Its object views, itself forgets,
Thy Husband it adores.
It humbly still itself denies,
Nor brags its acts at all ;
Deep plung'd into its object lies,
Thy Husband is its all.
No strength but his it has, and vaunts,
No store but his can show ;
Hence nothing has nothing wants,
Thy Husband trains it so.
Faith, of its own, no might can shew,
Else would itself destroy ;
But will, for all it has to do,
Thy Husband still employ.
Self-saviours none could ever be
By faith or grace of theirs ;
Their fruitless toil, so high that sice,
Thy Husband's praise impairs.
The seemingly devoutest deed,
That would with shameless brow
His saving trade take o'er his head,
Thy Husband won't allow.

Dost therefore thou to him alone
 Commit thy sinful soul?
 Knowing of thy salvation
 Thy Husband is the whole?

S E C T. III.

*Believers characterised by the objects and purity of
 their desire, delight, joy, hatred, and love, disco-
 vering they have the Spirit of CHRIST.*

DOST thou his Spirit's conduct wait?
 And, when compar'd to this,
 All worldly wisdom under-rate?

Thy Husband waits to bless.
 Tak'st thou his Spirit for thy guide
 Through *Baca's* valley dry,
 Whose streams of influences glide
 Thy Husband's garden by?
 In digging wells here by his pow'r,
 Dost find it not in vain,
 While here a drop and there a show'r,
 Thy Husband makes to rain?

Hence dost thou through each weary case
 From strength to strength go on,
 From faith to faith, while grace for grace
 Thy Husband gives anon?

The good, the gracious work begun,
 And further'd by his strength,
 Shall prosp'rous, though with wrestling, win
 Thy Husband's crown at length.

Sin's pow'r and presence canst thou own
 Is thy most grievous smart,
 That makes thee sob and weep alone?
 Thy Husband knows thy heart.

Does love to him make thee distaste
Thy lusts, with all their charms?
And most them loth'st, when most thou hast
Thy Husband in thine arms?
Are cords of love the sweetest ties
To bind thee duty-ways?
And best thou serv'st, when most thou spies
Thy husband's beauteous rays?
Didst ever thou thy pardon read
In tears of untold joy?
When mercy made thy heart to bleed;
Thy Husband was not coy.
Do pardons sweetly melt thy heart?
And most embitter sin?
And make thee long with dross to part,
Thy Husband's throne to win?
When he arises lust to kill,
Corruptions to destroy,
Does gladness then thy spirit fill?
Thy Husband is thy joy.
Dost thou his person fair embrace
Beyond his blessings all?
Sure, then, thou boldly, mayst through grace
Thy Husband *Jesus* call.
What company dost thou prefer?
What friends above the rest?
Of all relations ever were,
Thy Husband is the best.
Whom in the earth or heav'n dost thou
Most ardently desire?
Is love's ascending spark unto
Thy Husband set on fire?

Hast thou a hatred to his foes,
 And dost their course decline ?
 Lov'st thou his saints, and dar'st suppose
 Thy Husband's friends are thine ?
 Dost thou their talk and walk esteem,
 When most divinely grave ?
 And favour'st best when most they seem
 Thy Husband's Sp'rit to have.

S E C T. IV.

Believers in CHRIST affect his counsel, word, ordinances, appearance, full enjoyment in heaven, and sweet presence here.

WH E R E go'st thou first when in a strait,
 Or when with grief oppress'd ?
 Flee'st thou to him ? O happy gate ?
 Thy Husband is thy rest.
 His counsel seek'st thou still prepar'd,
 Nor canst without him live.
 Wisdom to guide, and strength to guard,
 Thy Husband hath to give.
 Canst thou produce no pleasant pawn,
 Or token of his love ?
 Won't signets, bracelets from his hand,
 Thy Husband's kindness prove ?
 Mind'st when he sent his healing word,
 Which darting from on high,
 Did light, and life, and joy afford ?
 Thy Husband then was nigh.
 Canst thou the promise sweet forget,
 He dropt into thy heart ?

Such glad'ning pow'r, and love with it,
Thy Husband did impart.
Dost thou affect his dwelling-place,
And mak'st it thy repair ;
Because thine eyes have seen, through grace,
Thy Husband's glory there ?
Dost love his great appearing day,
And thereon muse with joy ;
When dusky shades will fly away,
Thy Husband death destroy ?
Dost long to see his glorious face
Within the higher orb,
Where humid sorrows losing place,
Thy Husband's rays absorb ?
Long'st to be free of ev'ry fault,
To bid all sin adieu ?
And mount the hill, where glad thou shalt
Thy Husband's glory view ?
Life where it lives, love where it loves,
Will most desire to be.
Such love-sick longing plainly proves
Thy Husband's love to thee.
What is it best can ease thy plaint,
Spread morning o'er thine ev'n ?
Is his approach thy heart's content,
Thy Husband's presence heav'n ?
And when deny'd this sweet relief,
Canst thou assert full well,
His hiding is thy greatest grief,
Thy Husband's absence hell ?
Let thy experience be disclos'd ;
If conscience answer yea

To all the queries here propos'd,
Thy Husband's thine for ay.

Pertains these characters to thee?
Then soul, begin and praise
His glorious worthy name, for he
Thy Husband is always.

S E C T. V.

*The true BELIEVER'S humility, dependence, zeal,
growth, admiration of free grace, and knowledge
of CHRIST'S voice.*

PERhaps a saint may sigh and say,
"I fear I'm yet to learn
These marks of marriage-love." Yet stay.
Thy Husband's bowels yearn.

Though darkness may thy light obscure,
And storms surmount thy calms,
Day yield to night, and thou be poor,
Thy Husband yet has alms.

Dost see thyself an empty brat,
A poor unworthy thing,
With heart upon the dust laid flat?
Thy Husband there does reign.

Art in thine own esteem a beast,
And dost thyself abhor?
The more thou hast of self-dissaste,
Thy Husband loves thee more.

Can hell breed no such wicked elf,
As thou in thine own sight?
Thou'lt got, to see thy filthy self,
Thy Husband's purest light.

Canst find no name so black, so vile,
With which thou wouldst compare,
But call'st thyself a lump of hell?

Thy Husband calls thee fair.

When his kind visits make thee see
He's precious, thou art vile,
Then mark the hand of God with thee,
Thy Husband gives a smile.

He knows what visits suit thy state,
And, though most rare they be,
It sets thee well on him to wait,
Thy Husband waits on thee.

Dost see thou art both poor and weak,
And he both full and strong?
O don't his kind delays mistake,
Thy Husband comes ere long.

Though, during *Sinai's* stormy day,
Thou dread'st the dismal blast,
And fear'st thou art a cast-away,
Thy Husband comes at last.

The glorious Sun will rise apace,
And spread his healing wings,
In sparkling pomp of sov'reign grace,
Thy Husband gladness brings.

Can'st thou, whate'er should come of thee,
Yet wish his *Zion* well,
And joy in her prosperity?
Thy Husband loves thy zeal.

Dost thou admire his love to some,
Though thou shouldst never share?
Mercy to thee will also come,
Thy Husband hath to spare.

Poor soul ! dost grieve for want of grace,
And weep for want of love,
And *Jesus* seek'st ? O hopeful case !
Thy Husband lives above.

Regretting much thy falling short,
Dost after more aspire ?

There's hope in *Isra'l* for thy sort,
Thy Husband's thy desire.

Art thou well pleas'd that sov'reign grace
Through Christ exalted be ?

This frame denotes no hopeless case,
Thy Husband's pleas'd with thee.

Couldst love to be the footstool low,
On which this throne might rise,
Its pompous grace around to show ?
Thy Husband does thee prize.

If but a glance of his fair face
Can cheer thee more than wine ;
Thou in his loving heart hast place,
Thy Husband place in thine.

Dost make his blood thy daily bath ?
His word and oath thy stay ?
His law of love thy lightsom path ?
Thy Husband is thy way.

All things within earth's spacious womb
Dost count but loss and dung,
For one sweet word in season from
Thy Husband's learned tongue ?
Skill to discern and know his voice
From words of wit and art,
Will clearly prove thou art his choice,
Thy Husband thine in heart.

The pompous words that fops admire,
May vagrant fancy feast;
But with seraphic harmless fire
Thy Husband's burn the breast.

S E C T. VI.

True BELIEVERS are willing to be tried and examined. Comforts arising to them from CHRIST'S ready supply, real sympathy, and relieving names, suiting their needs.

D O S T thou upon thy trait'rous heart
Still keep a jealous eye?
Most willing that thine inward part
Thy Husband strictly try?

The thieving croud will hate the light,
Lest stol'n effects be shown:
But truth desires what's wrong or right
Thy Husband would make known.

Dost then his trying word await,
His searching doctrine love?
Fond, lest thou err through self-deceit,
Thy Husband would thee prove?

Does oft thy mind with inward smart
Bewail thy unbelief?
And conscious sue from plagues of heart
Thy Husband for relief?

Why doubt'st his love? and yet behold,
With him thou wouldst not part
For thousand thousand earths of gold;
Thy Husband has thy heart.

Though

Though darkness, deadness, unbelief,
 May all thy soul attend ;
 Light, life, and faith's mature relief,
 Thy Husband has to send.

Of wants annoying, why complain ?
 Supply arises hence,
What gifts he had receiv'd from men,
 Thy Husband will dispense.

He got them in's exalted state
 For *rebels* such as thou ;
 All then that's needful, good, or great,
 Thy Husband will allow.

Thy wants he sees, thy cries he hears ;
 And, marking all thy moans,
 He in his bottle keep thy tears,
 Thy Husband notes thy groans.

All thine infirmities him touch,
 They strike his feeling heart ;
 His kindly sympathy is such,
 Thy Husband finds the smart.

Whatever touches thee, affects
 The apple of his eye ;
 Whatever harms, he therefore checks,
 Thy Husband's aid is nigh.

If foes are spar'd, thy need is such,
 He slays them but in part :
 He can do all, and will do much,
 Thy Husband acts by art.

He often for the saddest hour
 Reserves the sweetest aid :
 See how such banners heretofore
 Thy Husband has display'd.

Mind where he vouch'd his good-will,
Sometimes at *Hermon* * mount,
In *Jordan* land, at *Mizar* hill;
Thy Husband keeps the count.

At sundry times, and divers ways,
To suit thy various frames,
Hast seen, like rising golden rays,
Thy Husband's various names.

When guilty conscience ghastly star'd,
JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU †,
The Lord thy righteousness appear'd,
Thy Husband in thy view.

When in thy straits or wants extreme,
Help fail'd on ev'ry side,
JEHOVAH-JIREH ‡ was his name,
Thy Husband did provide.

When thy long absent Lord didst mone,
And to his courts repair;
Then was JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH § known,
Thy Husband present there.

When thy assaulting foes appear'd,
In robes of terror clad,
JEHOVAH-NISSI * then was rear'd,
Thy Husband's banner spread.

When furies arm'd with frightning guilt,
Dunn'd war without surcease;
JEHOVAH-SHALOM † then was built,
Thy Husband sent thee peace.

§ * *Psal.* xliii. 6. † *Jer.* xxiii. 6. ‡ *Gen.* xxii. 14.
Ezek. xlvii. 35. * *Exod.* xvii. 15. † *Judg.* vi. 24.
When

When thy diseases death proclaim'd,
 And creature-balsams fail'd,
 JEHOVAH-ROPHI * then was fam'd,
 Thy Husband kindly heal'd.
 Thus, as thy various needs require,
 In various modes like these,
 The help that suits thy heart's desire
 Thy Husband's name conveys.
 To th' *little flock*, as cases vary,
 The great JEHOVAH shews
 Himself a *little sanctuary* †,
 Thy Husband gives the views.

S E C T. VII.

The BELIEVER'S experience of CHRIST'S comfortable presence, or of former comforts, to be improved for his encouragement and support under darkness and hidings.

D O S T mind the place, the spot of land,
 Where *Jesus* did thee meet?
 And how he got thy heart and hand?
 Thy Husband then was sweet.
 Dost mind the garden, chamber, bank,
 A vale of vision seem'd?
 Thy joy was full, thy heart was frank,
 Thy Husband much esteem'd.
 Let thy experience sweet declare,
 If able to remind;
 A *Bochim* here, a *Bethel* there,
 Thy Husband made thee find.

* *Exod.* xv. 26.† *Ezek.* xi. 16.

Was such a corner, such a place,
A paradise to thee,
A *Peniel*, where face to face
Thy Husband fair did see?
There did he clear thy cloudy cause,
Thy doubts and fears destroy;
And on thy spirit seal'd he was
Thy Husband with great joy?
Couldst thou have said it boldly then,
And seal'd it with thy blood?
Yea, welcome death with pleasure, when
Thy Husband by thee stood?
That earth again should thee insnare,
O how thy heart was pain'd!
For all its fading glory there
Thy Husband's beauty stain'd.
The thoughts of living more in sin
Were then like hell to thee;
The life of heav'n did thus begin,
Thy Husband set thee free.
Whate'er thou soundst him at thy best,
He's at thy worst the same;
And *in his love will ever rest*,
Thy Husband holds his claim.
Let faith these visits keep in store,
Though sense the pleasure miss;
The God of *Bethel*, as before,
Thy Husband always is.
In meas'ring his approaches kind,
And timing his descents;
In free and sov'reign ways thou'lt find
Thy Husband thee prevents.

Prescribe not to him in thy heart,
He's infinitely wise.
How oft he throws his loving dart,
Thy Husband does surprize.
Perhaps a sudden gale thee blest,
While walking in thy road;
Or on a journey, ere thou wist,
Thy Husband look'd thee broad.
Thus was the Eunuch fam'd (his stage
A riding on the way,
As he revolv'd the sacred page)
Thy Husband's happy prey.
In hearing, reading, singing, pray'r,
When darkness compass'd thee,
Thou foundst, or e'er thou wast aware,
Thy Husband's lightning free.
Of heav'nly gales don't meanly think:
For, though thy soul complains,
They're but a short and passing blink;
Thy Husband's love remains.
Think not, though breezes haste away,
Thou dost his favour lose;
But learn to know his sov'reign way,
Thy Husband comes and goes.
Don't say he's gone for ever, though
His visits he adjourn;
For yet a little while, and lo,
Thy Husband will return.
In worship social, or retir'd,
Dost thou his absence wail?
Wait at his shore, and be not fear'd,
Thy Husband's ship's a-sail.

Yea, though in duties sense may miss
Thy soul's beloved One;
Yet do not faint, for never is
Thy Husband wholly gone.

Though Satan, sin, earth, hell at once,
Would thee of joy bereave;
Mind what he said, he won't renounce,
Thy Husband will not leave.

Though foes assail, and friendship fail,
Thou hast a friend at court;
The gates of hell shall ne'er prevail,
Thy Husband is thy fort.

S E C T. VIII.

Comfort to BELIEVERS from the stability of the promise; notwithstanding heavy chastisements for sin.

TAKE well howe'er kind wisdom may
Dispose thy present lot;
Though heav'n and earth should pass away,
Thy Husband's love will not.

All needful help he will afford,
Thou hast his vow and oath;
And once to violate his word
Thy Husband will be loth.

To fire and floods with thee he'll down,
His promise this insures,
Whose credit cannot burn nor drown:
Thy Husband's truth endures.

Dost thou no more his word believe,
As mortal man's forsooth?

O do not thus his Spirit grieve,
Thy Husband is the truth.

Though thou both wicked art and weak,
His word he'll never rue ;
Though heav'n and earth should bend and break,
Thy Husband will be true.

I'll never leave thee, is his vow ;
If truth has said the word,
While truth is truth, this word is true,
Thy Husband is the Lord.

Thy covenant of duties may
Prove daily most unsure :
His covenant of grace for ay
Thy Husband does secure.

Dost thou to him thy promise break,
And fear he break to thee ?
Nay not thy thousand crimes can make
Thy Husband once to lie.

He visit will thy sins with strokes,
And lift his heavy hand ;
But never once his word revokes,
Thy Husband's truth will stand.

Then dream not he is chang'd in love,
When thou art chang'd in frame ;
Thou mayst by turns unnumber'd move,
Thy Husband's ay the same.

He for thy follies may thee bind
With cords of great distress ;
To make thee moan thy sins, and mind
Thy Husband's holiness.

By wounds he makes thee seek his cure,
By frowns his favour prize ;

By falls affrighting, stand more sure,
Thy Husband is so wise.

Proud *Peter* in the dirt of vice
Fell down exceeding low ;
His tow ring pride, by tumbling thrice,
Thy Husband cured so.

Before he suffer pride that swells,
He'll drag thee through the mire
Of sins, temptations, little hells ;
Thy Husband saves by fire.

He in affliction's mortar may
Squeeze out old *Adam's* juice,
Till thou return to him, and say,
Thy Husband is thy choice.

Fierce billows may thy vessel toss,
And crosses curses seem ;
But that the curse has fled the cross,
Thy Husband bids thee deem.

Conclude not he in wrath disowns,
When trouble thee furrounds ;
These are his favourable frowns,
Thy Husband's healing wounds.

Yea, when he gives the deepest lash,
Love leads the wounding hand :
His stroke, when sin has got a dash,
Thy Husband will remand.

S E C T. IX.

Comfort to believers, in CHRIST's relations, in his dying love, his glory in heaven, to which he will lead them through death, and supply with all necessities by the way.

BEhold the patrimony broad
That falls to thee by line ;
In him thou art an heir of God,
Thy Husband's Father's thine.

He is of relatives a store,
Thy friend will help in thrall ;
Thy brother much, thy father more,
Thy Husband most of all.

All these he does amass, and share,
In ways that most excel :
'Mong all the husbands ever were,
Thy Husband bears the bell.

Whence run the streams of all thy good,
But from his pierced side ?
With liquid gold of precious blood
Thy Husband bought his bride.

His blood abundant value bore
To make his purchase broad,
'Twas fair divinity in gore,
Thy Husband is thy God.

Who purchas'd at the highest price,
Be crown'd with highest praise ;
For in the highest paradise ;
Thy Husband wears the bays.

Strange is the place of my abode,
 I dwell at home, I dwell abroad (u).
 I am not where all men may see,
 But where I never yet could be (v).

I'm full of hell (w), yet full of heav'n (x);
 I'm still upright (y), yet still uneven (z);
 Imperfect (a), yet a perfect saint (b);
 I'm ever poor (c), yet never want (d).

his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples; for I am sick of love.

(u) *Job* iv. 19. How much less them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? *Psal.* xc. 1. Lord, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations, & xci. 1. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty 1 *John* iv. 16. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God, in him.

(v) *Is.* xxxiii. 16. He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munition of rocks. *Eph.* ii. 6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

(w) *Ecc.* ix. 3. The heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

(x) *Eph.* iii. 19. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

(y) *Psal.* xviii. 23. I was also upright before him: and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

(z) *Ezek.* xviii. 25. Hear now, O house of Israel, Are not your ways unequal?

(a) *Rev.* iii. 2. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

(b) 1 *Cor.* in 6. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect, &c.

(c) *Psal.* xl. 17. But I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh upon me.

(d) *Psal'm* xxiii. 1. The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. & xxxiv. 10. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.

No mortal eye sees God and lives (*e*),
 Yet sight of him my soul revives (*f*).
 I live best when I see most bright (*g*);
 Yet live by faith, and not by sight (*h*).

I'm lib'ral (*i*), yet have nought to spare (*k*);
 Most richly cloth'd (*l*), yet stript and bare (*m*).

(*e*) *Exod.* xxxiii. 20. And he said, Thou canst not see my face : for there shall no man see me, and live.

(*f*) *John* vi. 40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life. *Chap.* xx. 20. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.

(*g*) *2 Cor.* iii. 18. But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. *Chap.* iv. 6. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

(*h*) *Gal* ii. 20. I am crucified with Christ : Nevertheless I live : yet not I, but Christ liveth in me : and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. *2 Cor.* v. 7. For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(*i*) *Psal.* xxxvii. 21. The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again : but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth.

(*k*) *Zeph.* iii. 12. I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.

(*l*) *Isa.* lxi. 10. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

(*m*) *Ezek.* xvi. 7. I have caused thee to multiply as the bud of the field, and thou hast increased and waxen great, and thou art come to excellent ornaments : thy breasts are fashioned, and thine hair is grown, whereas thou wast naked and bare, *Rev.* iii. 17. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing ; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.

My stock is risen by my fall (*n*) ;
 For, having nothing, I have all (*o*).
 I'm sinful (*p*), yet I have no sin (*q*) ;
 All spotted o'er (*r*), yet wholly clean (*s*).
 Blackness and beauty both I share,
 A hellish black, a heav'nly fair (*s*).
 They're of the de'el, who sin amain (*t*) ;
 But I'm of God, yet sin retain (*u*) :
 This traitor vile the throne assumes (*v*),
 Prevails, yet never overcomes (*w*).

(*n*) *Rom* viii. 18 And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose

(*o*) 2 *Cor.* vi. 10 — as having nothing, and yet possessing all things,

(*p*) *Rom.* vii. 14. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. *v.* 24. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death!

(*q*) *Num.* xxiii. 21. He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel. 1 *John* iii. 9 Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

(*r*) *Psal* xiv. 3. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doth good, no not one.

(*t*) *Song* iv. 7. Thou art all fair, my love, there is no spot in thee.

(*s*) *Song* i. 5. I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. *v.* 15. Behold thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair, thou hast doves eyes.

(*t*) 1 *John* iii. 8. He that committeth sin, is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.

(*u*) 1 *John* i. 8. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(*v*) *Rom.* vii. 23. But I see another law in my members warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members.

(*w*) *Pf.* lxxv. 3. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away. *Rom.* vi. 14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

I'm without guile an *Isr'elite* (x),
 Yet like a guileful hypocrite (y);
 Maintaining truth in th' inward part (z),
 With falsehood rooted in my heart (a).
 Two masters, sure, I cannot serve (b),
 But must from one regardless swerve;
 Yet self is for my master known (c),
 And *Jesus* is my Lord alone (d).
 I seek myself incessantly (e),
 Yet daily do myself deny (f).

(x) *John* i. 47. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile. *Psal.* xxxii. 2. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

(y) *Psal.* xix. 12. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.

(z) *Psal.* li. 6. Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

(a) *Matth* xv. 19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

(b) *Matth* vi. 24. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

(c) *Ez.* 2. 1. Israel is an empty vine he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit, he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land, they have made goodly images, *Matth* xvi. 24. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

(d) *Is.* xxvi. 13. O Lord our God, other lords besides thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. *John* xx. 28. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

(e) *James* iv. 3. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. *Jer.* xlv. 2. 5. Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel unto thee, O Baruch, And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not; for behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the Lord: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.

(f) *Matth* xvi. 24. See letter c.

To me 'tis lawful evermore
 Myself to love and to abhor (g).
 In this vain world I live, yet see,
 I'm dead to it, and it to me (h).
 My joy is endless (i), yet at best
 Does hardly for a moment last (k).

S E C T. III.

*Mysteries about the saint's work and warfare, sins,
 sorrows, and joy.*

TH E work is great I'm call'd unto (a),
 Yet nothing's left for me to do (b):

(g) *Lev. xix. 18.* Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love my neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord. *Eph. v. 29.* For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church. *John xii. 25.* He that loveth his life, shall lose it: and he that hateth his life in this world, shall keep it unto life eternal. *Job xlii. 6.* Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

(h) *Col. iii. 3.* For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. *Gal. vi. 14.* But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

(i) *John xvi. 22.* And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. 2 *Thess. ii. 16.* Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace, &c.

(k) *Psal. xxx. 7.* Lord by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong: thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled. *Isaiab. xlix. 13, 14.* Sing, O heavens, and be joyful, O earth, and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.

(a) *Phil. ii. 12.* Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

(b) *Phil. ii. 13.* For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. *Lev. xx. 7, 8.* Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God.

Hence for my work heav'n has prepar'd
 No wages (c), yet a great reward (d).
 To works, but not to working dead (e);
 From sin, but not from sinning freed (f).
 I clear myself from no offence (g),
 Yet wash mine hands in innocence (h).
 My Father's anger burns like fire (i),
 Without a spark of furious ire (k):

And ye shall keep my statutes and do them. I am the Lord which sanctify you.

(c) *Rom. vi. 23.* For the wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Chap. xi. 6.* And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

(d) *Psal. xix. 11.* Moreover, by them [the judgments of the Lord] is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward. *Psal. lxxiii. 11.* Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

(e) *Rom. vii. 4.* Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. *Gal. ii. 19.* For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

(f) 1 *John i. 8.* If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. *Chap. iii. 9.* Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

(g) *Rom. vii. 18.* For I know, that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good, I find not.

(h) *Psal. xxvi. 6.* I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord.

(i) 1 *Kings xi. 9.* And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

(k) *Is. xxvii. 4.* Fury is not in me. *Chap. liv. 9, 10.* For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness

Though still my sins displeasing be (l),
Yet still I know he's pleas'd with me (m).

Triumphing is my constant trade (n),
Who yet am oft a captive led (o);
My bloody war does never cease (p),
Yet I maintain a stable peace (q).

My foes assaulting conquer me,
Yet ne'er obtain the victory (r);
For all my battles, lost or won,
Were gain'd before they were begun (s).

I'm still at ease; and still oppress'd:
Have constant trouble, constant rest (s);

shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

(l) *Hab. i. 13.* Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity. *Jer. xlv. 4.* Howbeit, I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early, and sending them, saying, Oh do not this abominable thing that I hate.

(m) *Mat. iii. 17.* And lo, a voice from heaven, saying. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. *Rom. v. 10.* When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.

(n) *2 Cor. ii. 14.* Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ.

(o) *Rom. vii. 23.* But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members.

(p) *Rom. vii. 23.* See letter (o). *1 Tim. vi. 12.* Fight the good fight of faith, &c. *Gal. v. 17.* For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

(q) *Rom. v. 1.* Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *Isa. liv. 10* See letter (k).

(r) *Rom. vii. 23.* See letter (o). *Chap viii. 37.* Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

(s) *1 Cor. xv. 57.* But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(s) *2 Cor. iv. 8.* We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair. *John xvi. 33.* These things

Both clear and cloudy (*t*), free and bound (*u*);
 Both dead and living (*v*), lost and found (*w*).
 Sin for my good does work and win (*x*);
 Yet 'tis not good for me to sin (*y*).
 My pleasure issues from my pain (*z*);
 My losses still increase my gain (*a*).

I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. *Heb.* iv. 3. For we which have believed, do enter into rest.

(*t*) *Zech.* xiv. 6, 7. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark. But it shall be one day, which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening-time it shall be light. *Micah* vii. 8. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me.

(*u*) *John* viii. 36. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. *Acts* xx. 23. The holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

(*v*) *2 Cor.* vi. 9,—as dying, and behold, we live. *Col.* iii. 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

(*w*) *Matth.* xviii. 11. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. *Psal.* cxix. 176. I have gone astray like a lost sheep, seek thy servant. *Phil.* iii. 9. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is thro' the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

(*x*) *Rom.* viii. 28. And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. *Chap.* xi. 11. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

(*y*) *Psal.* lxxxix. 31, 32. If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

(*z*) *Psal.* cxix. 67. Before I was afflicted, I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. *v.* 71. It is good for me that I have been afflicted: that I might learn thy statutes. *James* i. 2. My brethren count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.

(*a*) *Matth.* x. 39. He that loseth his life for my sake, shall find it. *Mark* x. 29, 30. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house and brethren, or sisters,

I'm heal'd ev'n when my plagues abound (b),
 Cover'd with dust ev'n when I'm crown'd (c):
 As low as death, when living high (d);
 Nor shall I live, yet cannot die (e).

For all my sins my heart is sad,
 Since God's dishonour'd (f); yet I'm glad,
 Though once I was a slave to sin (g),
 Since God does thereby honour win (h).

sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come, eternal life.

(b) *Rom vii. 24, 25* O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(c) viz. *with mercy, Job xlii. 5, 6.* I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. *Ezek. xvi. 63.* That thou mayst remember and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.

(d) *2 Cor. vi. 9.* — as dying, and behold we live.

(e) *Heb. ix. 27.* It is appointed unto men once to die. *John v. 24.* Verily verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life. *Chap. vi. 40.* And this is the will of him that sent me, every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life. *v. 50, 51.* This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give, is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

(f) *Psal. li. 4.* Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.

(g) *Rom vi. 17* But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin; but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

(h) *J. xlii. 23.* Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it:

My sins are ever in his eye (*i*),
 Yet he beholds no sin in me (*k*):
 His mind that keeps them all in store,
 Will yet remember them no more (*l*).

Because my sins are great, I feel
 Great fears of heavy wrath (*m*); yet still
 For mercy seek, for pardon wait,
 Because my sins are very great (*n*).

Shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forests, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. *Eph. i. 6.* To the praise of the glory of grace. *v. 12.* That we should be to the praise of his glory.

(*i*) *Rev. iii. 1.* I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. *v. 15.* I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot.

(*k*) *Numb. xxiii. 21.* He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel. *Song iv. 7.* Thou art all fair, my love, there is no spot in thee. *Ezek. xvi. 14.* And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it was perfect through my comeliness which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord God.

(*l*) *Isa. xlii. 25.* I, even I am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins. *Jerem. xxxi. 34.* I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. *Heb. viii. 12.* I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

(*m*) *Ezra ix. 13. 14.* And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this: should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldst not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? *Psal. xxxviii. 1.* O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

(*n*) *Pf. xxv. 11.* For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity: for it is great. *Jer. xiv. 7.* O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against thee.

I hope

I hope when plung'd into despair (o),
 I tremble when I have no fear (p),
 Pardons dispel my griefs and fears (q),
 And yet dissolve my heart in tears (r).

S E C T. IV.

*Mysteries in faith's extractions, way and wa'h,
 prayers and answers, heights and depths, fear
 and love.*

With wasps and bees my busy bill
 Sucks ill from good, and good from ill (a):

(o) *Rom. iv. 18.* Who [Abraham] against hope believed in hope.
 2 *Cor. i. 8, 9.* For we would not, brethren have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: but we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead.

(p) *Phil. ii. 2.* Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence; work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. *Luke i. 74.* That he would grant us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear.

(q) *Matth. ix. 2.* Jesus said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.

(r) *Ezek. xxxvi. 25, 26.* Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. *v. 31.* Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities, and for your abominations. *Chap. xvi. 63.* That thou mayst remember and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.

(a) *Rom. ii. 4.* Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness, and forbearance, and long suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? *Chap. vi. 1, 2.* What shall we

Humil'ty makes my pride to grow,
And pride aspiring lays me low (b).

My standing does my fall procure (c),
My falling makes me stand more sure (d):

My poison does my physic prove (e),

My enmity provokes my love (f).

say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid: how shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? *v. 15.* What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. *Chap. viii. 18.* And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. *Phil. i. 12.* But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me, have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel. *Psal. cxix. 71.* It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes.

(b) *2 Cor. xii. 7.* And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. *Prov. xxix. 23.* A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. *2 Chron. xxxii. 26.* Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, (both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem), so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.

(c) *Psal. xxx. 6, 7.* And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong; thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled.

(d) *Prov. xxiv. 16.* For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again. *Psal. xxxvii. 24.* Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

(e) *2 Cor. xii. 7, 8.* And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. *Isa. xxvii. 8, 9.* In measure when it shooteth forth, thou wilt debate with it; he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east wind. By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged, and this is all the fruit to take away his sin.

(f) *Gal. v. 17.* The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. *v. 24.* And they that are Christ's, have crucified the flesh, with the affections and lusts.

My poverty infers my wealth (g),
 My sickness issues in my health (h):
 My hardness tends to make me soft (i),
 And killing things do cure me oft (k).

While high attainments cast me down,
 My deep abasements raise me soon (l):
 My best things oft have evil brood (m),
 My worst things work my greatest good (n).

(g) *Rev. ii. 9.* I know thy poverty, but thou art rich. *2 Cor. vi. 10.*—as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

(h) *Matth. ix. 12.* They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. *Isa. lvii. 17, 18.* For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him; I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.

(i) *Isa. lxiii. 17.* O Lord, why hast thou made us to err from thy ways? and hardenest our heart from thy fear? Return for thy servants sake, the tribes of thine inheritance.

(k) *2 Cor. i. 9.* But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead. *Ps. v. 15.* I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. *Ch. vi. 1.* Come and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

(l) *1 Pet. v. 5, 6.* Be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. *Psal. cxvi. 6.* I was brought low, and he helped me.

(m) *Psal. xxx. 6, 7.* And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved. Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong; thou didst hide thy face and I was troubled. *Deut. xxxii. 14, 15.* Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat, and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape. But Jehurum waxed fat, and kicked; thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness: then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation. *Psal. cvi. 7.* Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt, they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies, but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.

My inward foes, that me alarm,
 Breed me much hurt, yet little harm (o).
 I get no good by them †, yet see
 To my chief good they cause me flee (p).
 They reach to me a deadly stroke (q).
 Yet send me to a living rock (r).
 They make me long for *Canaan's banks* (s),
 Yet sure I owe them little thanks.

(n) *Psal* xxx. 11. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness. *Rom.* viii. 28 See letter (v).

(o) *Jer* x. 19. Wo is me for my hurt, my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it. *1 Pet.* iii. 13. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

† *in themselves, but much evil.* *1 Pet.* ii. 11. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. *James* i. 14, 15. But every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death.

(p) *Psal.* cxlii. 9. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies; I flee unto thee to hide me.

(q) *Rom.* viii. 13. If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die.

(r) *Psal* xviii. 46, 47. The Lord liveth, and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted. It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

(s) *Psal.* lv. 6. And I said, O that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. *Eccl.* i. 5. Wo is me, that I sojourn in Mesek, that I dwell in the tents of Kedar. *Rom.* viii. 20, 21, 22, 23. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope: because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption, into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth, and travaileth in pain together until now; and not only they but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

(s) *Heb.*

I travel (*t*), yet stand firm and fast (*u*);
 I run (*v*), but yet I make no haste (*w*).
 I take away both old and new (*x*),
 Within my sight (*y*), yet out of view (*z*).
 My way directs me in the way (*a*),
 And will not suffer me to stray (*b*):
 Though high and out of sight it be,
 I'm in the way, the way's in me (*c*).

(*t*) *Heb.* xi. 13. — and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

(*u*) *1 Cor.* xvi. 13. Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men men, be strong.

(*v*) *Heb.* xii. 1. Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

(*w*) *If.* xxviii. 16. He that believeth, shall not make haste.

(*x*) *Jer.* vi. 16. Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, wherein is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. *Neb.* x. 19, 20. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh.

(*y*) *1 Cor.* xiii. 12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

(*z*) *John* xvi. 10. I go to my Father, and ye see me no more.

(*a*) *John* xiv. 6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way: no man cometh unto the father, but by me.

(*b*) *If.* xlii. 16. And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not, I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. *Ch.* lv. 4. Behold, I have given him for a leader and commander to the people.

(*c*) *If.* xxxv. 8. And an high-way shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. *John* xv. 4. Abide in me, and I in you. *Chap.* xvii. 23. I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfect in one, and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me, *v.* 26. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me, may be in them, and I in them.

(*d*) *Matth.*

'Tis straight (*d*), yet full of heights and depths (*e*);
 I keep the way (*f*), the way me keeps (*g*).
 And being that to which I tend,
 My very way's my journey's end (*h*).

When I'm in company I grone,
 Because I then am most alone (*i*);
 Yet, in my closest secrecy,
 I'm joyful in my company (*k*).

(*d*) *Matth.* iii. 3. This is he that was spoken of by the prophet *Esaías*, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

(*e*) *Is.* xl. 3, 4. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. Chap. xlii. 16. See letter (*b*). *Psal.* lxxvii. 13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary. v. 19. Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

(*f*) *Psal.* xxxvii. 34. Wait on the Lord and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

(*g*) *Psal.* cxxi. 3, 4. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

(*h*) *Heb.* xii. 22, 23, 24. But ye are come unto mount *Sion*, and unto the city of the living-God, the heavenly *Jerusalem*, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to *Jesus* the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of *Abel*. 1 *Thess.* iv. 17. Then we which are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we be ever with the Lord.

(*i*) *Song* i. 7. Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?

(*k*) *Song* vii. 11, 12. Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the field: let us lodge in the villages. Let us get up early to the vineyards, let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves.

I'm heard afar (*l*), without a noise;
 I cry without a lifted voice (*m*):
 Still moving in devotion's sphere (*n*),
 Yet seldom steady persevere (*o*).

I'm heard when answer'd soon or late (*p*),
 And heard when I no answer get (*q*);
 Yea, kindly answer'd when refus'd (*r*),
 And friendly treat when harshly us'd (*s*).

(*l*) *Psal* xx. 6. Now know I, that the Lord saveth his anointed: he will hear him from his holy heaven, with the saving strength of his right hand.

(*m*) 1 *Sam.* i. 13, 14, 15. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart, only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

(*n*) 1 *Thess.* v. 17. Pray without ceasing.

(*o*) *Hos.* vi. 4. O Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee? for your goodness is as a morning cloud, and as the early dew it goeth away.

(*p*) *Is.* xlix. 8. Thus saith the Lord, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee.

(*q*) *Matth.* xxvi. 39. And Jesus went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt.

(*r*) *Psal* xxii. 1, 2, 3. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not: and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

(*s*) *Heb.* xii. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him. For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons: for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards and not sons. Furthermore,

My fervent pray'rs ne'er did prevail (s),
 Nor e'er of prevalency fail (t),
 I wrestle till my strength be spent (u),
 Yet yield when strong recruits are sent (v).
 I languish for my Husband's charms (w),
 Yet faint away when in his arms (x).

we have had fathers of our flesh, which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

(s) *Dan. ix. 18, 19.* O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. O Lord, hear, O Lord, forgive, O Lord, hearken and do, defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

(t) *James v. 16.* The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

(u) *Gen. xxxii. 24, 25.* And Jacob was left alone: and there wrestled a man with him, until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh: and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint as he wrestled with him.

(v) *Psal. cxxxviii. 3.* In the day when I cried, thou answeredst me: and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. *Gen. xviii. 32, 33.* And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for tens sake. And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

(w) *Psal. lxii. 2.* My flesh longeth to see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. & *xxvii. 4.* One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

(x) *Rev. i. 17.* And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead: and he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

My sweetest health does sickness prove ;
When love me heals, I'm sick of love (y).

I am most merry when I'm sad (z).
Most full of sorrow when I'm glad (a) :
Most precious when I am most vile (b),
And most at home when in exile (c).

(y) *Song* ii. 4, 5. He brought me to the banqueting-house, and his banner over me was love. Stay me with flagons, comfort me with apples; for I am sick of love.

(z) *1 Cor.* vii. 10. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of. *Ecc.* vii. 3. Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

(a) *Prov.* xiv. 13. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

(b) *Job* xl. 4. Behold, I am vile, what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. *Chap.* xlii. 5, 6. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes. *Jer.* xxxi. 18, 19, 20. I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself thus, Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me and I shall be turned; for thou art the Lord my God. Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh. I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth. Is Ephraim my dear son? is he a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him saith the Lord

(c) *Ezek.* i. 1. Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, (as I was among the captives by the river of Chabar), that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. *Rev.* i. 9, 10. I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, &c. *John* xvi. 32. Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

(d) *Ezek.*

My base and honourable birth
 Excites my mourning and my mirth (d).
 I'm poor, yet stock'd with untold rent (e);
 Most weak, and yet omnipotent (f).

On earth there's none so great and high (g),
 Nor yet so low and mean as I (h):

(d) *Ezek. xvi. 3, 4.* Thus saith the Lord God unto Jerusalem, Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan, thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite. And as for thy nativity in the day thou wast born, thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee: thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all. *John i. 13.* Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. *Psal. li. 5.* Behold, I was shapen in iniquity: and in sin did my mother conceive me. *1 Pet. i. 3.* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

(e) *Rev. iii. 17, 18.* Because thou sayst, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayst be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayst be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thy eyes with eye-salve, that thou mayst see. *Eph. iii. 8.* Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

(f) *John xv. 5.* Without me ye can do nothing. *Phil. iv. 13.* I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

(g) *Psal. xvi. 3.* But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent in whom is all my delight. *Is. xliii. 4.* Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

(h) *Eph. iii. 8.* See letter (e). *1 Tim. i. 15.* This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

None or so foolish (*i*), or so wise (*h*);
So often fall, so often rise (*l*).

I seeing him I never saw (*m*),
Serve without fear, and yet with awe (*n*).
Though love, when perfect, fear remove (*o*);
Yet most I fear when most I love (*p*)

(*i*) *Psal.* lxxiii. 12. So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee. *Prov.* xxx. 2, 3. Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

(*h*) 1 *Cor.* i. 30. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, &c. *Matth.* xi. 25, 26. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in thy sight. *Chap.* xiii. 11. Jesus answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

(*l*) *Prov.* xxiv. 16. A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again.

(*m*) 1 *Pet.* i. 8. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom thou now ye see him not, yet believing ye rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. *Heb.* xi. 1. Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

(*n*) *Luke* i. 74. That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear. *Heb.* xii. 28. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

(*o*) 1 *John* iv. 18. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment: he that feareth, is not made perfect in love.

(*p*) *Jer.* xxxiii. 9. And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness, and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it. *Is.* lvi. 5. Afterwards shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and shall fear the Lord, and his goodness in the latter days.

All things are lawful unto me (*q*),
 Yet many things unlawful be (*r*):
 To some I perfect hatred bear (*s*),
 Yet keep the law of love entire (*s*).
 I'm bound to love my friends (*t*), but yet
 I sin unless I do them hate (*u*):
 I am oblig'd to hate my foes (*v*),
 Yet bound to love and pray for those (*w*).
 Heart-love to man I'm call'd t' impart,
 Yet God still calls for all my heart (*x*).

(*q*) 1 Cor. vi. 12. All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

(*r*) Exod. xx. 1, 2, 3. &c. And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord, thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. &c.

(*s*) Psal. cxxxix. 21, 22. Do not I hate them, O Lord, that hate thee: and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them mine enemies.

(*s*) 2 Chron. xix. 2. And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer, went out to meet him, and said to king Jehoshaphat, Shouldst thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord.

(*t*) Lev. xix. 18. Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the Lord.

(*u*) Luke xiv. 26. If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, he cannot be my disciple.

(*v*) as they are the foes of God, Judg. v. 31. So let all thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love him, be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might. Psalm xvii. 13, 14. Arise, O Lord disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: from men which are thy hand, O Lord, from men of the world, who have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

(*w*) Matth. v. 44. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

I do him and his service both
By nature love (y), by nature lothe (z).

S E C T. V.

Mysteries about flesh and spirit, liberty and bondage, life and death.

Much like my heart both false and true (a),
I have a name both old and new (b).

(x) *Matth. xix. 19.* Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. *Chap. xxii. 37.* Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

(y) *1 John v. 2.* By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments.

(z) *Rom. viii. 7.* The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. *Col. i. 21.* And you that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.

(a) *Jer. xvii. 9.* The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? *Heb. x. 22.* Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

(b) *Rom. ix. 25, 26.* As he saith also in *Osee*, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her, beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called, The children of the living God. *Rev. ii. 17.* He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches, To him that overcometh, will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth, saving he that receiveth it. *Chap. iii. 12.* Him that overcometh, will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

No new thing is beneath the sun (c);

Yet all is new, and old things gone (d).

Though in my flesh dwells no good thing (e),

Yet *Christ* in me I joyful sing (f).

Sin I confess, and I deny:

For, though I sin, it is not I (g).

I sin against, and with my will (h);

I'm innocent, yet guilty still (i).

(c) *Ecc.* i. 9. The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun.

(d) 2 *Cor.* v. 17. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are past away, behold, all things are become new. *Rom.* xxi. 5. And he that sat upon the throne, said, behold, I make all things new.

(e) *Rom.* vii. 18. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not.

(f) *Col.* i. 27. To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

(g) *Rom.* vii. 14. — 20. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do, I allow not: for what I would, that do I not: but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not. I consent unto the law, that it is good. Now then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know, that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin, that dwelleth in me. 1 *John* iii. 9. Whosoever is born of God, doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

(h) *Rom.* vii. 21. — 25. I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God, after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

(i) *Psal.* xix. 13. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous

Though fain I'd be the greatest saint (*k*),
To be the least I'd be content (*l*).

My lowness may my height evince (*m*),
I'm both a beggar and a prince (*n*).

With meanest subjects I appear (*o*),
With kings a royal sceptre bear (*p*).

I'm both unfetter'd and involv'd (*q*);
By law condemn'd, by law absolv'd (*r*).

sins, let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression & cxxx 3. If thou, Lord, shouldst mark iniquities: O Lord, who shall stand?

(*k*) *Psaln* xxvii. 4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple

(*l*) *Psaln* lxxxiv. 10. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand: I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

(*m*) *Job*. v. 11. To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

(*n*) 1 *Sam*. ii. 8. The Lord raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon them. *Gen*. xxxii. 28. And the angel said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. *Rev*. i. 5, 6. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

(*o*) *Phil*. ii. 10. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. *Heb*. i. 6 And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

(*p*) *Rev*. ii. 26, 27. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: (and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers) even as I received of my Father.

(*q*) *Psaln* cxvi. 16. Oh Lord, truly I am thy servant, I am thy servant, and the son of thy handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds.

My guilt condignly punish'd see,
 Yet I the guilty wretch go free (s).
 My gain did by my loss begin (t);
 My righteousness commenc'd by sin (u);
 My perfect peace by bloody strife (v):
 Life is my death, and death my life (w).
 I'm (in this present life I know)
 A captive and a freeman too (x);

Rom. vii. 23. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members.

(r) *1 John. iii. 20.* For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. *Rom. viii. 1.* There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. *v. 33, 34.* Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifyeth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

(s) *Gal. iii. 13.* Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

(t) *Rom. iii. 23, 24.* For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

(u) *Rom. iii. 5.* But if our righteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? *Chap. v. 20, 21.* But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness, unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

(v) *Col. i. 20.* And (having made peace through the blood of his cross) by him to reconcile all things unto himself, by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

(w) *The life of sin is our death, 1 Tim. v. 6.* But she that liveth in pleasure, is dead while she liveth. *The death of Christ our life. 2 Cor. v. 14, 15.* For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: and that he died for all, that they which live, should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

(x) *Rom. vii. 23.* See letter (q). *Chap. viii. 2.* For the law of the Spirit of life, in Christ Jesus, hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

And though my death can't set me free,
It will perfect my liberty (y).

I am not worth one dusky grain,
Yet more than worlds of golden gain;
Though worthless I myself indite,
Yet shall as worthy walk in white (z).

SECT VI.

*The mystery of free justification through CHRIST'S
obedience and satisfaction.*

NO creature ever could or will
For sin yield satisfaction full (a);
Yet justice from the creature's hand
Both sought and got its full demand (b).

(y) *John* viii. 36. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. *Rev.* xiv. 13. And I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. *2 Cor.* v. 4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened not for that we would be unclothed but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

(z) *Gen.* xxxii. 10. I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed us to thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I am become two bands. *Rev.* iii. 4. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis, which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

(a) *Psal.* xlix. 8. For the redemption of their soul is precious and it cealeth for ever. *Is.* xl. 16. And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt-offering.

(b) *Psal.* xl. 6. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire, mine ears hast thou opened: burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required. *Heb.* x. 5, 6, 7. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou

Hence though I am, as well I know,
A debtor (c), yet I nothing owe (d).
My creditor has nought to say (e),
Yet never had I aught to pay (f).

He freely pardon'd ev'ry mite (g),
Yet would no single farthing quit (h).
Hence ev'ry blifs that falls to me
Is dearly brought, yet wholly free (i).

hath had no pleasure: then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will O God. *Eph. v. 2.* Christ hath loved us, and hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

(c) *Matth. vi. 12.* And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

(d) *Rom. iii. 24, 25.* Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. *Heb. x. 14.* For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

(e) *Rom. viii. 33, 34.* Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

(f) *Rom. v. 6.* For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. *v. 8.* But God commendeth his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

(g) *Acts xiii. 38, 39.* Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

(h) *Rom. iii. 24, 25.* See letter (d). *Chap. viii. 32.* He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.

(i) *1 Pet. i. 18, 19.* Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. *Eph. i. 7.* In whom we have redemption through his blood, the for-

All pardon that I need I have,
 Yet daily pardon need to crave (*k*).
 The law's arrest keeps me in awe (*l*),
 But yet 'gainst me there is no law (*m*).
 Though truth my just damnation crave (*n*),
 Yet truth's engag'd my soul to save (*o*).
 My whole salvation comes by this,
 Fair truth and mercy's mutual kiss (*p*).
 Law-breakers ne'er its curse have miss'd;
 But I ne'er kept it, yet am bless'd (*q*).

forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. *2 Tim. i. 9.* Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began.

(*k*) *Psal. ciii. 3.* Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases. & *xxv. 11.* For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity: for it is great. *Luke xi. 4.* And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. *Dan: ix. 19.* O Lord, hear, O Lord forgive, O Lord, hearken and do, defer not, for thine own sake. O my God: for thy city, and thy people are called by thy name.

(*l*) *Psal. cxix. 120.* My flesh trembleth for fear of thee, and I am afraid of thy judgments. *Rom. vii. 9.* I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. *v. 13.* Was then that which is good, made death unto me? God forbid. But sin that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

(*m*) *Gal. v. 23.* The fruit of the Spirit is—meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. *1 Tim. i. 9.* Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, &c.

(*n*) *Ezek. xviii. 4.* The soul that sinneth it shall die.

(*o*) *1 Tim. i. 15.* This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

(*p*) *Psal. lxxxv. 10.* Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

(*q*) *Gal. iii. 10.* As many as are of the works of the law, are under

I can't be justify'd by it (r),
 And yet it can't but me acquit (s).
 I'm not oblig'd to keep it more (s),
 Yet more oblig'd than e'er before (t).

der the curse: for it is writt'n, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. *v.* 13. 14. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

(r) *Rom.* iii. 20. Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. *Gal.* ii. 16. Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ; that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. Chap iii. 11. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

(s) *Rom.* viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, *v.* 3. 4. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. *2 Cor.* v. 21. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. *Rom.* iii. 26. To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(t) *Rom.* vi. 14. Sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. *Gal.* v. 1, 2, 3, 4. Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

(t) *Rom.* vi. 1, 2. What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid: how shall we that are

dead

By perfect doing life I find (*u*);
Yet *do* and *live* no more me bind (*v*).

These terms no change can undergo,
Yet sweetly chang'd they are (*w*); for lo,
My *doing* caus'd my *life* (*x*), but now
My *life's* the cause that makes me *do* (*y*).

dead to sin, live any longer therein? *v. 15.* What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

(*u*) *Rom. v. 17, 18, 19.* They which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. — By the righteousness, of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. — By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

(*v*) *Rom. x. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.* For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doth those things, shall live by them. But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above); Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead): But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is the word of faith which we preach, That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart, that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

(*w*) *Rom. iii. 31.* Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.

(*x*) *Rom. x. 5.* See Letter (*v*).

(*y*) *John xiv. 19.* Because I live, ye shall live also. Chap. xv. 5. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. *Rom. vii. 4.* Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. *Ezek. xxxvi. 27.* And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Though *works of righteousness* I store (z),
 Yet *righteousness of works* abhor (a);
 For righteousness without a flaw
 Is *righteousness without the law* (b).
 In duty's way I'm bound to lie (c),
 Yet out of duties bound to fly (d):
 Hence merit I renounce with shame (e),
 Yet right to life by merit claim (f).

(z) *Philip. i. 11.* Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.

(a) *Philip. iii. 9.* And to be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. *If. lxiv. 6.* All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. *Rom. iv. 6.* Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.

(b) *Rom. iii. 20, 21, 22.* Therefore, by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. - But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference.

(c) *Prov. viii. 34.* Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

(d) *If. lviii. 12.* I will declare thy righteousness and thy works, for they shall not profit thee. *Luke. xvii. 10.* When ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, Say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

(e) *Psal. xvi. 2.* O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee. *Ezek. xxxvi. 31.* Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

(f) *Rom. v. 18, 19.* By the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. - By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. *If. xlv. 24, 25.* Surely, shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

Merit

Merit of perfect righteousness
 I never had (g), yet never miss (h);
 On this condition I have all (i),
 Yet all is unconditional (k).

Though freest mercy I implore (l),
 Yet I am safe on justice' score (m),

(g) *Rom.* iii. 9, 10. What then? are we better than they? No in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; as it is written, There is none righteous, no not one. *v.* 19. Now we know, that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

(h) *1 Cor.* i. 30. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us - righteousness. *Is.* xlv. 24. See letter (f). *Jer.* xxiii. 6. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(i) *Is.* xlii. 21. The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness sake, he will magnify the law, and make it honourable. *Matth.* iii. 15. Thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. *v.* 17. And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(k) *Is.* lv. 1. Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat, yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. *Rev.* xxii. 17. Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

(l) *Psal.* li. 1. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

(m) *Rom.* iii. 24, 25, 26. Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. *1 John* i. 9. If we confess our sins, he is faithful, and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Which never could the guilty free (a),
Yet fully clears most guilty me (c).

S E C T. VII.

The Mystery of God the Justifier, Rom. iii. 26. justified both in his justifying and condemning; or Soul justification and Self-condemnation.

MY Jesus needs not save (a), yet must (b);
He is my hope (c), I am his trust (d).
He paid the double debt, well known
To be all mine, yet all his own (e).

(a) *Exod. xxxiv. 6, 7.* And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God,—that will by no means clear the guilty.

(c) *Rom. iv. 5.* To him that worketh not but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

(a) *Rom. ix. 5.* Christ is over all, God blessed for ever.

(b) *John x. 16.* And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. *v. 18.* No man taketh it [my life] from me, but I lay it down of myself: I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father. *Luke ii. 49.* And Jesus said unto them [Joseph and his mother], How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

(c) *Jer. xiv. 8.* O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, &c. *Chap. xvii. 17.* Be not a terror unto me, thou art my hope in the day of evil, *1 Tim. i. 1.* Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ which is our hope.

(d) *John xvii. 6.* I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me. *2 Tim. i. 12.* I know whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

(e) *Is. liii. 4. 5. 6.* Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Hence, tho' I ne'er had more or less
 Of justice-pleasing righteousness (f),
 Yet here is one wrought to my hand,
 As full as justice can demand (g).
 By this my judge is more pleas'd
 Than e'er my sin his honour leas'd (h).
 Yea, justice can't be pleas'd so well
 By all the torments borne in hell (i).

afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *v. 8.* For the transgression of my people was he stricken. *Heb. vii. 22.* By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

(f) *Rom. iii. 9, 10, 19.* See letter (g) forecite'd.

(g) *Dan. ix. 24.* Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, &c. *Zech. xiii. 7.* Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

(h) *Rom. v. 8, 9, 10, 11.* But God commendeth his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son: much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. *Heb. ix. 14.* How much more shall the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

(i) *Heb. x. 5, 6.* Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me: in burnt-offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. *v. 14.* By one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. *v. 29.* Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son

Full satisfaction here is such,
 As hell can never yield so much (*k*);
 Though justice therefore might me damn,
 Yet by more justice sav'd I am (*l*).

Here ev'ry divine property
 Is to the highest set on high (*m*);

of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

(*k*) *Rom.* v. 11. See letter (*h*). *Eph.* v. 2. Christ hath given himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. 1 *Pet.* i. 18, 19. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. *Gal.* iii. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.

(*l*) 1 *Pet.* iii. 18. Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, (that he might bring us to God), being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. *Rom.* iii. 26. To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 1 *John* ii. 2. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Chap. iv. 10. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.

(*m*) *Rom.* iii. 25. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. *Psal.* lxxxv. 10. Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other. 2 *Cor.* v. 18, 19. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation: to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. *v.* 21. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. *Luke* ii. 14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

Hence

Hence God his glory would injure,
 If my salvation were not sure (*n*).
 My peace and safety lie in this,
 My creditor my surety is (*o*).
 The judgment-day I dread the less,
 My judge is made my righteousness (*p*).
 He paid out for a bankrupt-crew
 The debt that to himself was due;
 And satisfy'd himself for me,
 When he did justice satisfy (*q*).
 He to the law, though Lord of it,
 Did most obediently submit (*r*).

(*n*) *If.* xlv. 23. Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel. *Eph.* i. 6. To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. *v.* 12. That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

(*o*) *Psal.* cxix. 122. Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me. *Heb.* vii. 22. By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

(*p*) *1 Cor.* i. 30. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us — righteousness. Chap. xv, 55, 56, 57. O death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(*q*) *Zech.* xiii. 7. See letter (*g*). *Rom.* ix. 5. Christ is over all, God blessed for ever. *Phil.* ii. 6, 7, 8. Christ Jesus being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

(*r*) *Ibid.* *Gal.* iv. 4, 5. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

What he ne'er broke, and yet must die,
I never kept, yet live must I (f).

The law, which him its keeper kill'd,

In me its breaker is fulfill'd (s);

Yea, mangify'd and honour'd more

Than sin defac'd it e'er before (t)

Hence, though the law condemn at large,

It can lay nothing to my charge (u);

Nor find such ground to challenge me,

As heav'n hath found to justify (v)

(f) 1 Pet. iii. 18. See letter (l). 2 Cor. v. 21. See letter (m).
1 John iv. 19. In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

(s) Rom. viii. 3, 4. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh; that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(t) Is. xlii. 21. The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness sake, he will magnify the law, and make it honourable. Rom. v. 18, 19, 20, 21. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners: so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover, the law entered, that the offence might abound: But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

(u) Rom. viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus. v. 3, 4. See letter (s). v. 33, 34. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

(v) Job xxxiii. 24. Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom. Rom. iii. 25, 26. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through

But though he freely me remit,
 I never can myself acquit (*w*).
 My judge condemns me nor, I grant;
 Yet justify myself I can't (*x*).
 From him I have a pardon got,
 But yet myself I pardon not (*y*).
 His rich forgiveness still I have,
 Yet never can myself forgive (*z*).
 The more he's toward me appeas'd,
 The more I'm with myself displeas'd (*a*).
 The more I am absolv'd by him,
 The more I do myself condemn (*b*).

through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(*w*) 2 Sam. xii. 13. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan, said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin: thou shalt not die. *Psal.* li. 2, 3. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

(*x*) *Rom.* viii. 1. 33. See letter (*v*). *Job* ix. 20. If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

(*y*) 2 *Cor.* vii. 11. For behold, this self same thing that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge!

(*z*) *Is.* xxxviii. 15. What shall I say? he hath both spoken unto me, and himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul.

(*a*) *Ezek.* xvi. 63. That thou mayst remember and be confounded, and never open thy mouth any more because of thy shame, when I am pacified toward thee, for all that thou hast done, saith the Lord God.

(*b*) *Luke* xviii. 13, 14. And the publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this

When he in heav'n dooms me to dwell,
 Then I adjudge myself to hell (c);
 Yet still I to his judgment 'gree,
 And clear him for absolving me (d).

man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself, shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. *Ezek xxxvi. 31, 32.* Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities, and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. *Jer. xxxi. 19.* Surely after that I was turned, I repented: and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

(c) *Matth. xxv. 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39.* Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick or in prison, and came unto thee? *1 Cor. xi. 31.* If we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. *Luke xv. 20, 21.* And he [the prodigal son] arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. *Gen. xxxii. 9, 10.* And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee. I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I am become two bands.

(d) *Psal. li. 4.* Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. *& xi. 7.* The righteous Lord loveth righteousness, his countenance doth behold the upright.

Thus he clears me, and I him clear,
I justify my justifier (e).

Let him condemn or justify,
From all injustice I him free (f).

& cxlv. 16, 17. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his words. *Rev. xv. 3.* And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints.

(e) *Rom. iii. 26.* To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness; that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. *Is. xlv. 21.* There is no God else beside me, a just God and a saviour. *v. 24.* Surely, shall one say, In the Lord have I righteousness and strength. *Chap. lxiii. 2.* Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. *Zech. ix. 9.* Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, thy King cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation, &c.

(f) *Job xxv. 4, 5, 6.* How then can man be justified with God or how can he be clean that is born of a woman? Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. How much less man that is a worm; and the son of man which is a worm? *Psal. lxxxix. 14.* Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before thy face. & xcvi. 2. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. *Rom. iii. 19, 20.* Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith, to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in his sight; for by the law is the knowledge of sin. *v. 23, 24, 25.* For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ; whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. *Psal. xxii. 2, 3.* O my God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night-season and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

S E C T. VIII.

*The Mystery of Sanctification imperfect in this Life;
or the Believer doing all, and doing nothing.*

Mine arms embrace my God (a), yet I
Had never arms to reach so high (b);
His arm alone me holds (c), yet lo,
I hold and will not let him go (d).

I do according to his call,
And yet not I, but he does all (e);
But though he works to will and do (f),
I without force work freely too (g).

(a) *Song* iii. 4. It was but a little that I passed from them; but I found him whom my soul loveth; I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

(b) *Psal.* lxi. 2. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

(c) *Psal.* lxxiii. 8. My soul followeth hard after thee; thy right hand upholdeth me. *Is.* xli. 10. Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

(d) *Gen.* xxxii. 26. And he [the angel] said, Let me go, for the day breaketh: And he [Jacob] said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

(e) *1 Cor.* xv. 10. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. *v.* 58. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, inasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

(f) *Philip.* ii. 13. It is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

(g) *Psal.* cx. 3. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.

His will and mine agree full well (*b*),
 Yet disagree like heav'n and hell (*i*).
 His nature's mine (*k*), and mine is his (*l*);
 Yet so was never that nor this (*m*).
 I know him and his name, yet own
 He and his name can ne'er be known (*n*).
 His gracious coming makes me do;
 I know he comes, yet know not how (*o*).

power. cxvi. 16. Oh Lord, truly I am thy servant, I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds,

(*b*) *Matth.* vi. 10. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. *Psal.* xl. 8. I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

(*i*) *Matth.* xxi. 28, 29. A certain man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to-day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not, &c. *John* v. 40. Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. *Matth.* xxiii. 37. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings and ye would not!

(*k*) 2 *Pet.* i. 4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature.

(*l*) *Heb.* ii. 14. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same. *v.* 16. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels: but he took on him the seed of Abraham.

(*m*) *Is.* xl. 17, 18. All nations before him are as nothing, and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

(*n*) *Psal.* ix. 10. They that know thy name will put their trust in thee. *Prov.* xxx. 3, 4. I [Agur] neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy. Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

(*o*) *Song* iv. 16. Awake, O north-wind, and come, thou south, blow

I have no good but what he gave (p),
 Yet he commends the good I have (q).
 And though my good to him ascends (r),
 My goodness to him ne'er extends (s).
 I take hold of his cov'nant free (t),
 But find it must take hold of me (u).

blow upon thy garden, that the spices thereof may flow out: let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits. *John* iii. 8. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

(p) *1 Chron.* xxix. 14. And David said, — But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. *2 Cor.* iii. 5. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves: but our sufficiency is of God.

(q) *2 Cor.* x. 18. For not he that commendeth himself, is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. *Rom.* xii. 1, 2. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

(r) *Psal.* xxv. 1. Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. cxli. 2. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Eph.* iii. 12. In whom [Christ Jesus] we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. *Heb.* x. 19. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, &c.

(s) *Psal.* xvi. 2. O my soul, thou hast said unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord: my goodness extendeth not to thee.

(t) *If.* lvi. 4. Thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that — take hold of my covenant, &c. v. 6. Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that — taketh hold of my covenant, &c.

(u) *Zech.* i. 6. But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the Lord of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings,

I'm bound to keep it (u), yet 'tis bail,

And bound to keep it without fail (v).

The bond on my part cannot last (w),

Yet on both sides stands firm and fast (x).

I break my bands at ev'ry shock,

Yet never is the bargain broke (y).

so hath he dealt with us. *Psal.* cx. 2, 3. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion : rule thou in the mids of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, &c. *Rom.* i. 16 I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ : for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 2 *Cor.* ii. 16.—to the other we are the favour of life unto life : and who is sufficient for these things?

(u) *Psal.* ciii. 17, 18. The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him ; and his righteousness unto childrens children : to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. *John.* xvii 6. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world : thine they were, and thou gavest them me ; and they have kept thy word.

(v) *Psal.* lxxxix. 33, 34, 35, 36. Nevertheless, my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness, that I will not lye unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

(w) *Psal.* lxxxix. 30, 31, 32. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments ; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments : then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

(x) *Psal.* lxxxix. 2, 3, 4. For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever : thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant. Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. v. 28, 29. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. *Jer.* xxxii. 40. And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them ; to do them good ; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Daily, alas ! I disobey (z),
 - Yet yield obedience ev'ry day (a).
 I'm an imperfect perfect man (b),
 That can do all, yet nothing can (c).
 I'm from beneath (d), and from above (e),
 A child of wrath (f), a child of love (g).
 A stranger e'en where all me know ;
 A pilgrim, yet I no where go (h).

(y) *Psal.* lxxviii. 37. Their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. *Is.* liv. 10. The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee.

(z) *James* iii. 2. In many things we offend all.

(a) *Psal.* lxi. 8. So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows. *Heb.* iii. 13. But exhort one another daily while it is called, To day ; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

(b) *Psal.* xxxvii. 37. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright : for the end of that man is peace. *Rev.* iii. 2. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die : for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

(c) *Philip.* iv. 13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. *John* xv. 5. I am the vine, ye are the branches : He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit : for without me ye can do nothing.

(d) *John* viii. 23. And Jesus said unto the Jews, Ye are from beneath — : ye are of this world, &c.

(e) *Gal.* iv. 26. Jerusalem which is above, is free, which is the mother of us all. v. 28. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. *John* i. 13. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God, Chap. iii. 5. 6. Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. — That which is born of the Spirit, 's spirit.

(f) *Eph.* ii. 3. We — were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

(g) *Rom.* ix. 8. The children of the promise are counted for the seed.

(h) *Heb.* xi. 13. These all — confessed that they were strangers and

I trade abroad, yet stay at home (i);
 My tabernacle is my tomb (k),
 I can be prison'd, yet abroad;
 Bound hand and foot, yet walk with God (l).

S E C T. IX.

The mystery of various names given to saints and church of Christ; or, The flesh and Spirit described from inanimate things, vegetables and sensitives.

TO tell the world my proper name,
 Is both my glory and my shame (a):

and pilgrims on the earth. 1 Pet. ii. 11. Dearly Beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, &c.

(i) Philip. iii. 20. For our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

(k) 1 Cor. v. 1, 2. For we know, that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan earnestly, desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven. v. 4. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

(l) Acts xvi. 24, 25. The jailor having received such a charge thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God. 2 Tim. ii. 9. Wherein I suffer trouble as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. 2 Cor. vi. 4, 5. But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings.

(a) Hof i. 9. Then said God, Call his name Lo-ammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God. Chap. ii. 1. Say ye unto your brethren, Ammi, and to your sisters, Ruhamah. v. 23. And I will have mercy upon her that hath not obtained mercy, and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people, and they shall say, Thou art my God.

For

For like my black but comely face,
My name is sin, my name is grace (b).

Most fitly I'm assimilate
To various things *inanimate* ;
A standing lake (c), a running flood (d),
A fixed star (e), a passing cloud (f).
A cake unturn'd, nor cold, nor hot (g) ;
A vessel sound (h), a broken pot (i) ;

(b) *Song* i. 5. I am black, but comely, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, as the tents of Kedar, as the curtains of Solomon. *1 Tim.* i. 15. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. *Is.* lxii. 2, 3. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory : and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

(c) *Jer.* xlviii. 11. Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity : therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

(d) *Is.* xlv. 3. I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground ; I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.

(e) *Dan.* xii. 3. And they that be wise, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament ; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever : *And in opposition to those called wandering stars, Jude* 13.

(f) *Hos.* vi. 4. O Ephaim, what shall I do unto thee ? O Judah, what shall I do unto thee ? for your goodness is as a morning-cloud and as the early dew it goeth away.

(g) *Hos.* vii. 8. Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people, Ephraim is a cake not turned. *Rev.* iii. 15. I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot : I would thou wert cold or hot.

(h) *Rom.* ix. 21. Hath not the potter power over the clay of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour ?

(i) *Psal.* xxxi. 12. I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind : I am like a broken vessel.

A ri-

A rising sun (*k*) a drooping wing (*l*);
 A flinty rock (*m*), a flowing spring (*n*).
 A rotten beam (*o*) a virid stem (*p*);
 A menstr'ous cloth (*q*), a royal gem (*r*).
 A garden barr'd (*s*), an open field (*s*);
 A gliding stream (*t*), a fountain seal'd (*u*).

(*k*) *Matth.* xiii. 13. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father.

(*l*) *Psal.* lv. 6. And I said, O that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest.

(*m*) *Zech.* vii. 12. They made their hearts as an adamant-stone lest they should hear the law, and the words which the Lord of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets.

(*n*) *John* iv. 14. Jesus answered and said unto her.—Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him, shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

(*o*) *Is.* xvii. 9, 10. In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left, because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation. Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength; therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips. Chap. xxvii. 11. When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding. &c.

(*p*) *Prov.* xi. 28. The righteous shall flourish as a branch. *Psal.* xcii. 12, 13. The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.

(*q*) *Is.* xxx. 22. Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence. Chap. lxiv. 6. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

(*r*) *Is.* lxii. 3. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God.

(*s*) *Song* iv. 12. A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse.

(*t*) *Matth* xiii. 24, 25. Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came, and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Of various *vegetables* see
 A fair and lively map in me,
 A fragrant rose (*v*), a noisome weed (*w*);
 A rotting (*x*), yet immortal seed (*y*).
 I'm with'ring grass (*z*), and growing corn (*a*);
 A pleasant plant (*b*), an irksome thorn (*c*);
 An empty vine (*d*), a fruitful tree (*e*);
 An humble shrub (*f*), a cedar high (*g*).

(*t*) *Song* iv. 15. [My sister is] a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

(*u*) *Song*. iv. 12. A spring shut up, a fountain sealed is my sister, my spouse.

(*v*) *Is* xxxv. 1. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them: and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

(*w*) *Is*. v. 4. What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

(*x*) *Gen*. iii. 19. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

(*y*) 1 *Pet*. i. 23. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever.

(*z*) *Is*. xl. 7. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

(*a*) *Hof*. xiv. 7. They that dwell under his shadow shall return, they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

(*b*) *Is* v. 7. The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant.

(*c*) *Micah* vii. 4. The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge.

(*d*) *Hof*. x. 1. Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself.

(*e*) *Psal*. i. 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doth shall prosper.

(*f*) *Ezek*. xvii. 5, 6. He [a great eagle] took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field, he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree. And it grew, and became a
 spread-

A noxious brier (*b*), a harmless pine (*i*);

A sapless twig (*k*), a bleeding vine (*l*):

A stable fir (*m*), a pliant bush (*n*);

A noble oak (*s*), a naughty rush (*p*).

spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him and the roots thereof were under them: so it became a vine, and brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs. *v.* 24. And all the trees of the field shall know that I the Lord have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the Lord have spoken and have done it. *Mark.* iv. 30, 31. And Jesus said, Wherunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard-seed, which when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth.

(*g*) *Psal.* xcii. 12. The righteous shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

(*b*) *Micah* vii. 4. See letter (*c*).

(*i*) *If.* xli. 19. I will set in the desert the fir-tree, and the pine, and the box tree together.

(*k*) *John* xv. 4. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. *v.* 6. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered.

(*l*) *John* xv. 5. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. *Song* ii. 13. The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. *v.* 15. Take us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines: for our vines have tender grapes.

(*m*) *If.* lv. 13. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. *Chap.* lx. 13. The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary, and I will make the place of my feet glorious.

(*n*) *Matth.* xi. 7. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?

(*s*) *If.* vi. 13. But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak whose substance is

With *sensitives* I may compare,
 While I their various natures share :
 Their distinct names may justly suit
 A strange, a reasonable brute (*q*).

The sacred page my state describes
 From volatile and reptile tribes ;
 From ugly vipers (*r*), beauteous birds (*s*) ;
 From soaring hosts (*s*), and swinish herds (*t*).

I'm rank'd with beasts of diff'rent kinds,
 With spiteful tygers (*u*), loving hinds (*v*) ;

in them, when they cast their leaves : so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

(*p*) *If* lviii. 5. Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?

(*q*) *Psal.* lxxiii. 22. So foolish was I, and ignorant ; I was as a beast before thee. *Prov* xxx. 2. Surely I [Agur] am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

(*r*) *Matth* iii. 7. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, &c.

(*s*) *Song* ii. 12. The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land

(*t*) *If* lx. 8. Who are these that fly as clouds, and as the doves to their windows?

(*u*) *Matth.* vii. 6. Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearl before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rent you. *2 Pet.* ii. 12. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again ; and, The sow that was washed, to her wallowing in the mire.

(*v*) *Psal.* xxii. 16. For dogs have compassed me, the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me : they pierced my hands and my feet *Philp.* iii. 2. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

(*v*) *Psal.* xviii. 33. God maketh my feet like hinds feet, and setteth me upon my high places. *Prov.* v. 19. Let her [the wife of thy youth] be as the loving hind, and pleasant roe, let her breasts satisfy

And creatures of distinguish'd forms,
With mounting eagles (*w*), creeping worms (*x*).

A mixture of each sort I am;
A hurtful snake (*y*), a harmless lamb (*z*);
A tardy ass (*a*), a speedy roe (*b*);
A lion bold (*c*), a tim'rous doe (*d*).

A slothful owl (*e*), a busy ant (*f*);
A dove to mourn (*g*), a lark to chant (*h*):
And with less equals to compare,
An ugly toad (*i*), an angel fair (*k*).

Satisfy thee at all times, and be thou ravished always with her love.

(*w*) *If.* xl. 31. — They shall mount up with wings as eagles.

(*x*) *Psal.* xxii. 6. But I am a worm, and no man. *If.* xli. 14. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel, &c.

(*y*) *Psal.* lviii. 4. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear.

(*z*) *John.* xxi. 15. So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

(*a*) *Job* xi. 12. Vain man would be wise, though man be born like a wild ass's colt.

(*b*) *Prov.* vi. 5. Deliver thyself [my son] as a roe from the hand of the hunter.

(*c*) *Prov.* xxviii. 1. The righteous are bold as a lion.

(*d*) *If.* ii. 19. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

(*e*) *Psal.* cii. 6. I am like an owl of the desert.

(*f*) *Prov.* vi. 6. Go to the ant, thou sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise &c.

(*g*) *If.* xxxviii. 14. Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O Lord, I am oppressed, undertake for me. *Ezek.* vii. 16. But they that escape of them [Israel], shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the vallies, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

(*h*) *Song* ii. 12. The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

(*i*) *Rom.* iii. 13. — The poison of asps is under their lips. *Job* xl.

S E C T X.

The mystery of the saints o'd and new man further described; and the means of their spiritual life.

TEmpations breed me much annoy (a),
 Yet divers such I count all joy (b).
 On earth I see confusion reel (c),
 Yet wisdom ord'ring all things well (d).
 I sleep, yet have a waking ear (e);
 I'm blind and deaf, yet see and hear (f):

4. Behold, I am vile, what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

(k) *Acts* vi. 15. And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him [Stephen], saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. *2 Cor.* iii. 18. But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

(a) *Heb.* xii. 11. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous, &c. *1 Pet.* i. 6. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season (if need be) ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations.

(b) *James* i. 2. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.

(c) *Psal* lxxxii. 5. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

(d) *Psal.* xxix. 10. The Lord sitteth upon the flood: yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever. lxxxix. 9. Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. *Rom* viii. 28. And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(e) *Song* v. 2. I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with the dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

(f) *If.* xlii. 18, 19. Hear ye deaf, and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger

Dumb, yet cry *Abba, Father*, plain (g),

Born only once, yet born again (h).

My heart's a mirror dim and bright (i),

A compound strange of day and night (k):

Of dung and di'monds, dross and gold (l);

Of summer heat, and winter cold (m).

ger that I sent? who is blind, but he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant? Chap. xxxv. 5. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

(g) *If.* xxxv. 6. Then shall — the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. *Rom.* viii. 15. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, *Abba, Father*.

(h) *John* iii. 3, 4, 5, 6. Jesus answered and said unto him [*Nicodemus*], Verily, verily I say unto thee Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. *Nicodemus* saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh, is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit, is spirit.

(i) *Lam.* v. 17. For this our heart is faint, for these things our eyes are dim. *If.* xxxii. 3. And the eyes of them that see, shall not be dim, &c.

(k) *Zech.* xiv. 7. But it shall be one day, which shall be known to the Lord, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening-time it shall be light.

(l) *Mal.* ii. 3. Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts, and one shall take you away with it. *Philip.* iii. 8. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung that I may win Christ. *If.* lxii. 3. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. *If.* i. 25. And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin. *Job* xxiii. 10. God knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

(m) *Psal.* xxxix. 3. My heart was hot within me, while I was

Down like a stone I sink and dive (*n*),
 Yet daily upward soar and thrive (*o*).
 To heav'n I fly, to earth I tend (*p*);
 Still better grow, yet never mend (*q*).

musling the fire burned. *Luke* xxiv. 32. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? *Matth.* xxiv. 12. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. *Rev.* ii. 4. Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

(*n*) *Psal.* xlii. 6. 7 O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep, at the noise of thy water-spouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

(*o*) *Psal* xlii 8. 9. Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? *v.* 11. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

(*p*) *Col.* iii. 1, 2. If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. *Psal.* xliv. 25. Our soul is bowed down to the dust; our belly cleaveth unto the earth.

(*q*) *Hos.* xiv. 5. I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon. *v.* 7. They that dwell under his shadow shall return, they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon. *Philip.* iii. 12, 13, 14. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. *Rom.* vii. 23, 24. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin,
 which

My heav'n and glory's sure to me,
 Though thereof seldom sure I be (r):
 Yet what makes me the surer is,
 God is my glory (s), I am his (s).
 My life's expos'd to open view (t),
 Yet closely hid and known to few (u).
 Some know my place, and whence I came,
 Yet neither whence, nor where I am (v).
 I live in earth, which is not odd;
 But lo, I also live in God (w):

which is in my members. O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death.

(r) *John* xiv. 2, 3. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you: I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. 2 *Pet* i. 10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. *Heb.* iv. 1. Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

(s) *Psal.* iii. 3. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. *Isa.* lx. 19. The sun shall be no more thy light by day, neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God, thy glory.

(t) *Isa.* xlv. 13. I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory. 2 *Cor.* viii. 23. Whether any do enquire of Titus he is my partner, and fellow-helper concerning you: or our brethren be inquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

(u) *Psal.* xlv. 13. Thou makest us a reproach to our neighbours, a scorn and derision to them that are round about us.

(v) *Col.* iii. 3. Your life is hid with Christ in God.

(w) *John* iii. 9, 10. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? *Prov.* xiv. 10. The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy. 1 *John* iv. 16. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

A spirit without flesh and blood,
 Yet with them both to yield me food (x).
 I live what others live upon,
 Yet live I not on bread alone;
 But food adapted to my mind,
 Bare words, yet not on empty wind (y).
 I'm no *Antropopagite* rude,
 Though fed with human flesh and blood;
 But live superlatively fine,
 My food's all spirit, all divine (z).
 I feast on fulness night and day (a),
 Yet pinch'd for want I pine away (b).

(w) *Gal. ii. 20.* I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

(x) *John. iv. 24.* God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. *Chap. vi. 53, 54, 55.* Then Jesus said unto them [the Jews], Verily, verily I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

(y) *Matth. iv. 4.* But Jesus answered and said [unto the tempter], It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. *Jer. xv. 16.* Thy words were found, and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart, for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts.

(z) *John vi. 57, 58* As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread, shall live for ever. *v. 63.* It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

(a) *Is. xxv. 6.* And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat

My leanness, leanness, ah ! I cry (c) ;
Yet fat and full of sap am I (d).

As all amphibious creatures do,
I live in land and water too (e) :
To good and evil equal bent (f),
I'm both a devil (g), and a saint (h).

fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. *Psal.* i. 2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

(b) *If.* xli. 17. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. *Psal.* xl. 17. But I am poor and needy, yet the Lord thinketh upon me : thou art my help and my deliverer, make no tarrying, O my God.

(c) *If.* xxiv. 16. From the uttermost parts of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous : but I said, My leanness, my leanness, wo unto me : the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously, yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.

(d) *Psal.* xcii. 13, 14. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age : they shall be fat and flourishing. *civ.* 16. The trees of the Lord are full of sap : the cedars of Lebanon which he hath planted.

(e) *Psal.* cxvi. 9. I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. *lxix.* 1, 2. Save me, O God, for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing : I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. *lxxxviii.* 17. Thy terrors came round about me daily like water, they compassed me about together.

(f) *Rom.* vii. 21. I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me.

(g) *John.* vi. 70. Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? *Chap.* viii. 44. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. *James.* iii. 15. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

(h) *1 Cor.* vi. 11. And such were some of you : but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

While some men who on earth are gods (*i*),
 Are with the God of heav'n at odds (*k*);
 My heart, where hellish legions are (*l*),
 Is with the hosts of hell at war (*m*).

My will fulfil what's hard to tell,
 The counsel both of Heav'n (*n*) and hell (*o*):
 Heav'n, without sin, will'd sin to be (*p*);
 Yet will to sin, is sin in me (*q*).

(*i*) *Psal.* lxxxii. 6. I have said, Ye are gods: and all of you are children of the Most High.

(*k*) *Psal.* lxxx'i. 1, 2. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty: he judgeth among the gods. How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? *Selah.* v. 5. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

(*l*) *Matth.* xv. 19. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. *Luke.* viii. 30. And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

(*m*) *Eph.* vi. 12. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

(*n*) *Rev.* xvii. 17. For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.

(*o*) *Eph.* ii. 3. Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh, and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

(*p*) *James.* i. 13. Let no man say when he is tempted. I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man. *Acts.* i. 15, 16. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples. and said, Men and brethren, This scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. *Chap.* ii. 23. Jesus of Nazareth, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain. *Chap.* iv. 27, 28. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles,

and

To duty seldom I adhere (r),
 Yer to the end I perlevere (f).
 I die and rot beneath the clod (s),
 Yet live and reign as long as God (t).

S E C T. XI.

The Mystery of CHRIST, his names, natures, and offices.

MY Lord appears; awake, my soul,
 Admire his name, *the Wonderful* (a),

and the people of Israel were gathered together, for to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

(q) *Hof. v. 11.* Ephraim is oppressed, and broken in judgment? because he willingly walked after the commandment. 2 *Cor. viii. 11, 12.* Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which you have. For if there be first a willing mind it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

(r) *Psal. cxix. 176.* I have gone astray like a lost sheep, seek thy servant: for I do not forget thy commandments.

(f) *Heb. x. 39.* But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe, to the saving of the soul.

(s) *Psal. xc. 3.* Thou turnest man to destruction: and sayst, Return, ye children of men.

(t) *John v. 24.* Verily verily I say unto you, He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life. *Rev. iii. 21.* To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. *Chap. xxii. 5.* And there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

(a) *If. ix. 6.* For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful.

An infinite and finite mind (*b*).

Eternity and time conjoin'd (*c*)

The everlasting Father styl'd,

Yet lately born, the virgin's child (*d*),

Nor father he, nor mother had,

Yet full with both relations clad (*e*).

His titles differ and accord,

As *David's* son, and *David's* Lord (*f*).

Through earth and hell how conqu'ring rode

The dying man, the rising God (*g*) !

(*b*) *Psal.* cxlvii. 5. Great is our Lord, and of great power : his understanding is infinite. *Luke* ii. 52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

(*c*) *Gal.* iv. 4. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law.

(*d*) *If.* ix. 6. For unto us a child is born — : and his name shall be called — The everlasting Father. *Matth.* i. 23. Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted, is, God with us

(*e*) *Heb.* vii. 3. For this Melchisedec — without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life ; but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest, continually. *Luke* ii. 48, 49. And when they saw him, they were amazed : and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us ? behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me ? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business ?

(*f*) *Matth.* xxii. 41, 42, 43, 44, 45. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, What think ye of Christ ? whose son is he ! They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord saith unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand till I make thine enemies thy footstool ? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son ? &c.

(*g*) *Matth.* xxi. 5. Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy king cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass. *v.* 8, 9. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way, others cut down branches from the trees,

My nature is corruption doom'd (h);
 Yet, when my nature he assum'd,
 He nor on him (to drink the brook) (i)
 My person nor corruption took (k),
 Yet he assum'd my sin, and guilt (/),
 For which the noble blood was spilt.

trees, and strewed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cryed, saying. Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest. *v. 12.* And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrowed the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves. *Col. ii. 15.* And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it [his cross] *Rom. iv. 25.* Jesus our Lord was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. *Eph. iv. 8.* Wherefore he [David] saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. *Rom. i. 4.* Jesus Christ our Lord was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead,

(h) *Eph. iv. 22.* Put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts.

(i) *Psal. cx. 7.* He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head.

(k) *Rom. viii. 3.* God sent his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. *John. i. 14.* And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth. *Luke i. 35.* And the angel answered and said unto Mary, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore that holy thing which shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God. *Heb. ii. 16.* For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. *Chap. vii. 26, 27.* For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

(l) *Is. liii. 6.* All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned

Great was the guilt-o'erflowing flood,
 'The creature's and Creator's blood (*m*) !
 The Chief of chiefs amazing came (*n*),
 To bear the glory and the shame (*o*) ;
 Anointed Chief with oil of joy (*p*),
 Crown'd Chief with thorns of sharp annoy (*q*).
 Lo, in his white and ruddy face
 Roses and lilies strive for place (*r*) ;

ed every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *2 Cor. v. 21*. God hath made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. *Matth. xx. 28*. The Son of man came to give his life a ransom for many.

(*m*) *Rom. iii. 25*. Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God. *Acts. xx. 28*. Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. *1 Pet. i. 18, 19*. Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot. *1 John iii. 16*. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he hath laid down his life for us.

(*n*) *Rom. i. 4, 5*. Grace be unto you, and peace from—Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

(*o*) *Zech. vi. 12, 13*. Behold the man whose name is the BRANCH, —he shall build the temple of the Lord, and he shall bear the glory. *Heb. xii. 2*. Jesus, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, &c.

(*p*) *Psal. xlv. 7*. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

(*q*) *Matth. xxvii. 29*. And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him saying, Hail king of the Jews.

(*r*) *Song. ii. 1*. I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys. *Chap. v. 10*. My Beloved is white and ruddy, the chiefest among ten thousand,

The morning-star, the rising sun,
 With equal speed and splendor run (*s*).
 How glorious is the church's head,
 The son of God, the woman's seed (*s*)!
 How searchless is his noble clan (*t*)
 The first, the last, the second man (*u*)!
 With equal brightness in his face,
 Shines divine justice, divine grace (*v*);

(*s*) *Rev.* xxi. 16. I [Jesus] am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. *Mal.* iv. 2. But unto you that fear my name, shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall.

(*s*) *Col.* i. 18. And Christ is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. *John* iii. 16. God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. *Gen.* iii. 15. And I [the Lord God] will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

(*t*) *Is.* liii. 8. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? *Prov.* xxx. 4. Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell.

(*u*) *Rev.* i. 11. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. *1 Cor.* xv. 45. The last Adam was made a quickening spirit. *v.* 47. The second man is the Lord from heaven.

(*v*) *2 Cor.* iv. 6. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ. *Rom.* iii. 24, 25, 26. Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ: whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. *Eph.* i. 6, 7. To the praise of the glory of his grace wherein he hath

The jarring glories kindly meet,
Stern vengeance, and compassion sweet (*w*).

God is a Spirit, seems it odd
To sing aloud the blood of God (*x*):
Yea, hence my peace and joy result,
And here my lasting hope is built (*y*).

Love through his blood a vent hath sought,
Yet divine love was never bought:
Mercy could never purchas'd be,
Yet ev'ry mercy purchas'd he (*z*).

hath made us accepted in the beloved? in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

(*w*) *Rom. v. 20, 21.* But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. *Psal. lxxx. 10.* Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

(*x*) *John iv. 24.* God is a Spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. *Acts xx. 28.* Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

(*y*) *Rom. v. 1.* Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. *v. 10.* For if when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son: much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. *1 Pet. iii. 15.* Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear, *v. 18.* For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, (that he might bring us to God), being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

(*z*) *Rom v. 9.* Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. *v. 21.* See letter (*u*). *John iii. 16.* God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life. *Rom. ix. 15.* God saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. *Eph. i. 3.* Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

His triple station brought my peace,
 The Altar, Priest, and Sacrifice (a);
 His triple office ev'ry thing,
 My Priest, my Prophet is, and King (b):

This King, who only man became,
 Is both the Lion and the Lamb (c):
 A King of kings, and kingdoms broad (d);
 A servant both to man and God (e).

(a) *Heb.* xiii. 10. We have an altar whereof they have no right to eat, which serve the tabernacle. Chap. ii. 17. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren; that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest, in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Chap. ix. 26. But now once in the end of the world, hath Christ appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

(b) *Acts* vii. 37. This is that Moses which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. *Is.* xxxiii. 22. The Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king, he will save us.

(c) *1 Tim.* iii. 16. And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, &c. *Rev.* v. 5, 6. And one of the elders saith unto me [John], Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne, and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns, and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth unto all the earth. v. 12. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory and blessing.

(d) *Rev.* xix. 16. And he [the Word of God] hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. *Is.* xxxvii. 15, 16. And Hezekiah prayed unto the Lord, saying, O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth, thou hast made heaven and earth, *Rev.* xi. 15. And the seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the

This Prophet kind himself has set
To be my book and alphaner,
And ev'ry needful letter plain,
Alpha, Omega, and Amen (f).

S E C T X I I.

The mystery of the BELIEVERS mixed state further enlarged; and his getting good out of evil.

BEhold, I'm all defil'd with sin (*a*),
Yet lo, all glorious am within (*b*).
In *Egypt* and in *Goshen* dwell (*c*);
Still moveless, and in motion still (*d*).

the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.

(*e*) *Matth.* xx. 28. The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. *Phil.* ii. 7. Christ Jesus made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. *Is.* xlii. 1. Behold my servant whom I uphold, mine elect in whom my soul delighteth. Chap. liii. 11. By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many.

(*f*) *Rev.* i. 8. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. v. 11. I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou [John] seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia. Chap. xxi. 6. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: I will give unto him that is athirst, of the fountain of the water of life freely. Chap. xxii. 13. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Chap. iii. 14. And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans, write these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, &c.

(*a*) *Is.* lxiv. 6. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

(*b*) *Psal.* xlv. 13. The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold.

(*c*) *Psal.* cxx. 5, 6. Wo is me, that I sojourn in Mesek, that I dwell

Unto the name that most I dread,
 I flee with joyful wings and speed (e).
 My daily hope does most depend
 On him I daily most offend (f).
 All things against me are combin'd,
 Yet working for my good I find (g).
 I'm rich in midst of poverties (h),
 And happy in my miseries (i).

Of

dwell in the tents of Kedar. My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. *xvi. 5, 6.* The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance, and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.

(d) *1 Cor. xv. 58* Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

(e) *Psal. cxliii. 2.* O Lord, enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *v. 6* Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

(f) *Psal. xxv. 11.* For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity: for it is great. *Jer. xiv. 7.* O Lord, though our iniquities, testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many, we have sinned against thee.

(g) *Gen. xlii. 36.* And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me. *Rom. viii. 28.* And we know that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

(h) *Rev. ii. 8, 9.* And unto the angel of the church of Smyrna, write, These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich).

(i) *Rom. v. 3, 4, 5* And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience: and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed, because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. *1 Cor. xii. 10.* Therefore I [Paul] take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Oft my Comforter sends me grief,
 My Helper sends me no relief (*k*).
 Yet herein my advantage lies,
 That help and comfort he denies (*l*).

As seamsters into pieces cut
 The cloth they into form would put,
 He cuts me down to make me up,
 And empties me to fill my cup (*m*).

I never can myself enjoy,
 Till he my woful self destroy;
 And most of all myself I am,
 When most I do myself disclaim (*n*).

(*k*) *Lam.* i. 16. For these things I weep, mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul, is far from me. *If.* xlv. 15. Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel the saviour.

(*l*) *If.* xxx. 18. And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment; blessed are all they that wait for him.

(*m*) *Hof.* v. 15. I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. *Chap.* vi. 1, 2. Come and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us: he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us, in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. *Psal.* cvii. 9. God satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. *Luke* i. 53. And Mary said, — He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away.

(*n*) *Luke* ix. 23, 24. And Jesus said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life, shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. *Rom.* viii. 13. If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die, but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. *2 Cor.* xii. 10. See letter (*i*).

I glory

I glory in infirmities (o),
 Yet daily am ashamed of these (p):
 Yea, all my pride gives up the ghost,
 When once I but begin to boast (q).

My chemistry is most exact,
 Heav'n out of hell I do extract (r);

(o) *1 Cor. xii. 9* Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(p) *Psal. lxxiii. 15, 16.* If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. When I thought to know this it was too painful for me. *lxxvii. 8, 9, 10.* Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.

(q) *Is. xlv. 24, 25.* Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come, and all that are incensed against him, shall be ashamed. In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory. *Psal. xlv. 6.* I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. *v. 8.* In God we boast all the day long: and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

(r) *Jonah ii. 1, 2.* Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly, and said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardst my voice. *v. 4.* Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. *Matth. xv. 26, 27, 28.* But Jesus answered and said [unto the woman of Canaan], It is not meet to take the childrens bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her. O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. *Psal. xlii. 6, 7, 8.* O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep, at the noise of thy water spouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the Lord will command his loving-kindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

This

This art to me a tribute brings
Of useful out of hurtful things (*f*).

I learn to draw well out of woe,
And thus to disappoint the foe (*s*):
The thorns that in my flesh abide
Do prick the tympany of pride (*t*).

By wounding foils the field I win,
And sin itself destroys my sin (*u*):
My lusts break one another's pate,
And each corruption kills its mate (*v*).

I smell

(*f*) *Rom. v. 3, 4, 5. See letter (f).*

(*s*) *Micah vii. 8. Rej ice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me,*

(*t*) *2 Cor. xii. 7. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelation, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

(*u*) *Rom. viii. 35, 37. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. Psal. lxx. 3. Iniquities prevail against me: as for our transgressions, thou shalt purge them away. 2 Chron. xxxii. 24, 25, 26. In those days Hezekiah was sick to the death, and prayed unto the Lord: and he spoke unto him, and he gave him a sign. But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem. Notwithstanding, Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, (both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem), so that the wrath of the Lord came not upon them in the days of Hezekiah.*

(*v*) *Rom. vii. 7, 8, 9. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet, But sin taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment*

I *smell* the bait, I *feel* the harm
Of corrupt ways, and take th' alarm.
I *taste* the bitterness of sin,
And then to relish grace begin (w).

I *hear* the fools profanely talk,
Thence wisdom learn in word and walk (x):

came, sin revived, and I died. v. 11. For sin taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. v. 13. Was then that which is good, made death unto me? God forbid: But sin that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good: that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. *Where you see the sight and feeling of sin killed jelf.* John ix. 39, 40, 41. And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world: that they which see not, might see; and that they which see, might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with him, heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth. *Psal.* lix. 11. Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. *Matth* xxvi. 33, 34. Peter answered and said unto him, I though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, that this night before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. v. 75. And Peter remembered the words of Jesus which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly.

(w) *Rom.* vi. 21. What fruit had ye then in those things, whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. *Psal.* xix. 11. Moreover, by them [the judgments of the Lord] is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. lxxiii. 17, 18, 19. Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation in a moment; they are utterly consumed with terrors. *Jer* ii. 19. Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see, that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts.

(x) *Job* xxi. 13, 14, 15. They spend their days in wealth, and

I see them throng the passage broad,
And learn to take the narrow road (j).

S E C T. XIII.

The mystery of the saints adversaries and adversities.

A Lump of woe affliction is,
Yet thence I borrow lumps of bliss (a):
Though few can see a blessing in't,
It is my furnace and my mint (b).

Its

in a moment go down to the grave. Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways, What is the A mighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have if we pray unto him? *Eph. iv. 20, 21, 22.* But ye have not so learned Christ, if so be that you have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. Chap v 6, 7, 8. Let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness but now are ye in light in the Lord; walk as children of light *v. 11.* And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

(j) *Matth. vii. 13, 14* Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

(a) *Heb. xii. 11.* Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness, unto them which are exercised thereby. *James i. 12.* Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

(b) *Is. xxxi. 9.* And he [the Assyrian] shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the Lord, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.

Its sharpness does my lusts dispatch (c);
 Its suddenness alarms my watch (d);
 Its bitterness refines my taste,
 And weans me from the creature's breast (c).)

Its weightiness doth try my back,
 That faith and patience be not slack (f):
 It is a fanning wind, whereby
 I am unchaff'd of vanity (g).

A furnace to refine my grace (h),
 A wing to lift my soul apace (i);
 Hence still the more I sob distrest,
 The more I sing my endless rest (k).

Mine

(c) *Psal.* xlv. 5. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.

(d) *Mark* xiii. 35, 36, 37. Watch ye therefore, (for ye know not when the master of the house cometh; at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning), lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch.

(e) *Jer.* ii. 19. See letter (w) forecited. Chap. iv. 18. Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee, this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart.

(f) *James* i. 2, 3, 4. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

(g) *Isa.* xxvii. 8, 9. In measure when it shooteth forth, thou wilt rebate with it; he stayeth his rough wind in the day of the east-wind. By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged, and this is all the fruit to take away his sin.

(h) *Mal.* iii. 3. And he [the messenger of the covenant] shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

(i) *Psal.* cxlii. 9. Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

(k) 1. *Cor.* iv. 16, 17. For which cause we faint not, but though

Mine enemies that seek my hurt,
 Of all their bad designs come short (*l*);
 They serve me duly to my mind,
 With favours which they ne'er design'd (*m*).
 The fury of my foes makes me
 Fast to my peaceful refuge flee (*n*);
 And ev'ry persecuting elf
 Does make me understand myself (*o*).

our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

(*l*) *Psal.* xxxiii. 10. The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.

(*m*) *Gen.* i. 20. And Joseph said unto his brethren—As for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

(*n*) *Psal.* lv. 23. But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days, but I will trust in thee.

(*o*) *My sin.* *If.* xlii. 24. Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the Lord, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law. *My duty.* 2 *Sam.* xvi. 11, 12. And David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son which came forth of my bowels seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse: for the Lord hath bidden him. It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and that the Lord will requite me good for his cursing this day. *Micah.* vii. 8, 9. Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord shall be a light unto me. I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness. *My safety.* *Psal.* ix. 9, 10. The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. And they that know thy name, will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. v. 16. The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands, Higgaion, Selah.

Their

Their slanders cannot work my shame (p),
 Their vile reproaches raise my name (q).
 In peace with Heav'n my soul can dwell,
 Ev'n when they damn me down to hell (r).

Their fury can't the treaty harm (s).
 Their passion does my pity warm (t):
 Their madness only calms my blood (u);
 By doing hurt, they do me good:

They

(p) *Psal* xxxi. 13, 14. For I have heard the slander of many, fear was on every side, while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life. But I trusted in thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God.

(q) 1 *Pet.* iv. 14. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ: happy are ye: for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

(r) *Numb.* xxiii. 7, 8. And Balaam took up his parable and said Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel. How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied? v. 23. Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is their any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob, and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

(s) *Prov.* xvi. 2. As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

(t) 1 *Pet.* iii. 8, 9. Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise, blessing: knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

(u) *Psal* lxxix. 12, 13. They that sit in the gate speak against me and I was the song of the drunkards. But as for me my prayer is unto thee, O Lord, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me: in the truth of thy salvation.

(v) *Gen.* i. 20. See letter (m) forecited. *Esther* ix. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25. And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far, to stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth

They are my sordid slaves I wot ;
My drudges, though they know it not (v):

They

teenth day of the same yearly : as the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day ; that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor. And the Jews undertook to do as they had begun, and as Mordecai had written unto them, Because Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had devised against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Pur (that is, the lot) to consume them, and to destroy them : but when Esther came before the king, he commanded by letters, that his wicked device which he devised against the Jews, should return upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.

(v) Jer. xxv. 8. 9. Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, Because ye have not heard my words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon my servant, and will bring them against this land and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. v. 12. And it shall come to pass when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. • If x 5, 6. O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation ; and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. v 12. Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion, and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high locks. Chap. xlv. 24, 28. Thus saith the Lord thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord—that saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure, even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built ; and to the temple, Thy foundations shall be laid. Chap. xlv. 1. Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him : and I will loose the loins of kings to open before him the two-leaved gates, and the gates shall

They act to me a kindly part,
With little kindness in their heart (w).

They sweep my outer house when foul,
Yea, wash my inner filth of soul (x):

They help to purge away my blot.
For Meab is my washing pot (y).

S E C T XIV.

The mystery of the BELIEVER'S pardon and security from revenging wrath, notwithstanding his sin's desert.

I Though from condemnation free,
Find such condemnables in me,

As

not be shut. v. 4. For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

(w) *Matth. v. 10, 11, 12.* Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven, Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. *Luke vi. 22, 23.* Blessed are ye when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for behold your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

(x) *If iv. 3, 4 5.* And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof, by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies a cloud, and smoke by day, and the shining of

As make more heavy wrath my due
Than falls on all the damned crew (a).

But though my crimes deserve the pit,
I'm no more *liable* to it;

Remission seal'd with blood and death,
Secures me from deserved wrath (b).

And having now a pardon free,

To hell obnoxious cannot be,

Nor to a threat, except * anent

* *about*

Paternal wrath and chastisement (c).

My

a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. Chap. xxvii. 9. By this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged, and this is all the fruit to take away his sin; when he maketh all the stones of the altar as chalk-stones that are beaten in sunder, the groves and images shall not stand up.

(y) *Psal.* lxx. 8. Moab is my wash pot, &c.

(a) *Rom.* viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Chap. vii. 18. For I know, that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not. 1 *Tim.* i. 15, 16. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

(b) *Gal.* iii. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree. *Rom.* v. 9. Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. *Eph.* i. 7. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

(c) 1 *Theff.* i. 10. And to wait for his son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus which delivered us from the wrath to come. *Is.* liv. 9, 10. For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the

My soul may oft be fill'd indeed
 With slavish fear and hellish dread (*d*):
 This from my unbelief does spring (*e*),
 My faith speaks out some better thing.
 Faith sees no legal guilt again,
 Though sin and its desert remain (*f*):
 Some hidden wonders hence result;
 I'm full of sin, yet free of guilt (*g*).
 Guilt is the legal bond or knot,
 That binds to wrath and vengeance hot (*h*);

But

the hills removed, but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee. *Psal.* lxxxix. 30, 31, 32, 33. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments: then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless, my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

(*d*) *Matth.* xiv. 26. And when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

(*e*) *Mark* iv. 40. And Jesus said unto his disciples, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

(*f*) *Rom.* vii. 6. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter. Chap. viii. 3, 4. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

(*g*) *Rom.* vii. 14. For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin. Chap. viii. 33, 34. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

(*h*) *Deut.* xxvii. 26. Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words

But sin may be where guilt's away,
And guilt where sin could never stay.

Guilt without any sin has been,
As in my surety may be seen;
The elect's guilt upon him came,
Yet still he was the *holy Lamb* (i).

Sin without guilt may likewise be,
As may appear in pardon'd me:
For though my sin, alas does stay,
Yet pardon takes the guilt away (k).

Thus freed I am, yet still involv'd;
A guilty sinner, yet absolv'd (l):
Though pardon leave no guilt behind,
Yet sin's desert remains I find (m).

Guilt

words of this law to do them: and all the people shall say, Amen. *Rom. i. 18.* For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness, and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

(i) *Is. lii. 6.* The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Heb. vii. 26.* For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.

(k) *Rom. vii. 34.* O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? *Acts xii. 38-39.* Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe, are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

(l) *Rom. iii. 19.* Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who were under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. *v. 23. 24.* For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

(m) *Rom. iv. 6, 7, 8.* Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins

Guilt and demerit differ here,
 Though oft names confounded are.
 I'm guilty in *myself* always,
 Since sin's demerit ever slays (*n*).

Yet *in my head* I'm always free
 From proper guilt affecting me;
 Because my Surety's blood cancell'd
 The bond of curses once me held (*o*).

The guilt that pardon did divorce,
 From legal threat'nings drew its force (*p*);
 But sin's desert, that lodges still,
 Is drawn from intrinsic ill (*q*).

are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. *Psal.* li. 3, 4. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. *cxliiii.* 1. O Lord, enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

(*n*) *Rom.* vii. 13, 14. Was then that which is good, made death unto me? God forbid. But sin that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. *Eph.* v. 6. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

(*o*) *Rom.* v. 1. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *v.* 9. Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. *v.* 11. And not only so, but we also joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

(*p*) *Gal.* iii. 10. For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the cur'se, for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. *v.* 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Were guilt nought else but sin's desert,
Of pardon I'd renounce my part;
For, were I now in heav'n to dwell,
I'd own my sins deserved hell (r).

This does my highest wonder move
At matchless justifying love.
That thus secures from endless death
A wretch deserving double wrath (s).

Though

(g) *Psal. li 4: See letter (m) forecited. Luke xv. 18.* I will arise, and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father; I have sinned against heaven, and before thee.

(r) *Luke xv. 19.* And am no more worthy to be called thy son. *Rev. v. 4.* And I [John] wept much because no man was found worthy to open, and to read the book, neither to look thereon, *v. 9,* And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. *v. 11, 12, 13* And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne, and the beasts, and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I, saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power be unto him, that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

(s) *Rom. vii 24, 25.* O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death! I thank God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Chap. viii. 1.* There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. *1 Tim. i. 13.* Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious. But I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly, in unbelief. *v. 15, 16, 17.* This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit, for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all long suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Now unto the
King

Though well my black desert I know,
 Yet I'm not liable to woe;
 While full and compleat righteousness
 Imputed for my freedom is (s).

Hence my *security* from wrath
 As firmly stands on *Jesus death* (t),
 As does my *title* unto heav'n
 Upon his great *obedience* giv'n (u).

The sentence Heav'n did full pronounce,
 Has pardon'd all my sins at once;
 And ev'n from future crimes acquit,
 Before I could the facts commit (v).

I'm

King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever. Amen,

(s) 1 Cor. i. 30. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us — righteousness — and redemption. 2 Cor. v. 21. God hath made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Rom. iv. 11. And he [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also. v. 22, 23, 24, 25. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

(t) Rom. v. 9. Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

(u) Rom. v. 17, 18, 19. — They which receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ — By the righteousness of one, the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. — By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. v. 21. Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

(v) Psal. ciii. 3. Bless the Lord O my soul, — who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases. 2 Cor. v. 19. God

I'm always in a pardon'd state
 Before and after sin (*w*); but yet,
 'T hat vainly I presume not hence.
 I'm seldom pardon'd to my sense (*x*).
 Sin brings a *vengeance* on my head,
 Though from avenging wrath I'm freed (*y*).

And

was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. *v. 21. See letter (s) forecited. Dan. ix, 24. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness. If. liv. 10. For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed: but my kindness shall not depart from thee: neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord, that hath mercy on thee. Heb. viii. 12. For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.*

(*w*) *Rom. viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. v. 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

(*x*) *Psal. xxv. 11. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity: for it is great. li. 8, 9. Make me to hear joy and gladness: that the bones which thou hast broken, may rejoice. Hide thy face from my sins; and blot out all mine iniquities. v. 12. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation: and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

(*y*) *Psal. xcix. 8. Thou answeredst them, O Lord our God; thou wast a God that forgavest them, though thou tookest vengeance*

ance

And though my sins all pardon'd be,
 Their pardon's not apply'd to me (z).
 Thus though I need no pardon more,
 Yet need new pardons ev'ry hour *,
 In point of application free ;
 Lord, wash anew, and pardon me.

S E C T. XV.

The mystery of faith and sight, of which more,
 Part vi. Chap. 4.

STrange contradictions me besal,
 I can't believe unless I see (a)
 Yet never can believe at all,
 Till once I shut the seeing eye (b),
 When sight of sweet experience
 Can give my faith no helping hand (c).

ance of their inventions. 1 *Theff.* i. 10. And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus which delivered us from the wrath to come.

(z) *Psal.* xxxv. 3. O Lord, say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. lxxxv. 8. I will hear what God the Lord will speak : for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints : but let them not turn again to folly. *Matth.* ix. 2. And behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed : and Jesus seeing their faith, said unto the seek of the palsy, Son, be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.

* *Matth.* vi. 12. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 1 *John* i. 7, 8. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(a) *John* vi. 40. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life.

(b) *John* xx. 29. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed : blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

(c) *Is.* viii. 17. And I will wait upon the Lord that hideth his face

The sight of sound intelligence
Will give it ample ground to stand (*d*).

I walk by faith, and not by sight (*e*);
Yet *knowledge* does my faith resound (*f*),
Which cannot walk but in the light (*g*)
Ev'n when experience runs aground (*h*).

By knowledge I *discern* and spy
In divine light the object shown (*i*);
By faith I take and close *apply*
The glorious object as mine own (*k*).

face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him. Chap. I. 10. Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God.

(*d*) *Eph* i. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, &c. 2 *Cor*. iv. 6. For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.

(*e*) 2 *Cor*. v. 7. For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(*f*) *John* ii. 11. This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory: and his disciples believed on him.

(*g*) *Psal*. ix. 10. And they that know thy name, will put their trust in thee.

(*h*) *Psal*. xxvii. 14 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

(*i*) 2 *Cor*. iii. 18 But we all with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

(*k*) *John* i. 12. But as many as received him, to them gave he power

My faith thus stands on divine light,
 Believing what it clearly sees (*l*);
 Yet faith is opposite to sight,
 Truſting its ear, and not its eyes (*m*).
 Faith liſt'ning to a ſweet report,
 Still comes by hearing, not by ſight (*n*);
 Yet is not faith of ſaving ſort,
 But when it ſees in divine light (*o*).
 In fears I ſpend my vital breath,
 In doubts I waſte my paſſing years (*p*);
 Yet ſtill the life I live is faith,
 The oppoſite of doubts and fears (*q*).

'Tween

power to become the ſons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

(*l*) *Gal.* i. 16. But when it pleaſed God — to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen: immediately I conferred not with fleſh and blood.

(*m*) *Eph.* i. 13. In Chriſt ye alſo truſted after that ye heard the word of truth, the goſpel of your ſalvation.

(*n*) *Rom.* x. 17. So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(*o*) *Pſal.* xxxvi. 7. How excellent is thy loving-kindneſs, O God! therefore the children of men put their truſt under the ſhadow of thy wings, *v.* 9. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light ſhall we ſee light.

(*p*) *Pſal.* lxxvii. 3, 4. I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained and my ſpirit was overwhelmed. Selah. Thou holdeſt mine eyes waking: I am ſo troubled that I cannot ſpeak. *John* xx. 25. But Thomas ſaid unto the other diſciples, Except I ſhall ſee in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thruſt my hand into his ſide, I will not believe. *Luke* xxiv. 21. We truſted that it had been he which ſhould have redeemed Iſrael.

(*q*) *Gal.* ii. 20. I am crucified with Chriſt: Nevertheleſs I live: yet not I, but Chriſt liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the fleſh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himſelf for me. *Mark* v. 36. As ſoon as Jeſus heard the word that was ſpoken, he ſaith unto the ruler of the ſynagogue, Be

not

'Tween clearing faith and clouding sense,
 I walk in darkness and in light (r).
 I'm certain oft, when in suspence,
 While sure by faith, and not by sight (s).

S E C T. XVI.

*The mystery of faith and works, and rewards of
 grace and debt.*

I. Of faith and works.

TH E that in word offendeth not,
 Is call'd a perfect man I wot (a);

not afraid, only believe. *Matth. viii. 26* And Jesus saith unto his disciples, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? *Chap. xiv. 31.* And Jesus said unto Peter, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

(r) *Job xxix. 1, 2, 3.* Moreover, Job continued his parable, and said, Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me: when his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness. *Psal. cxii. 4.* Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness.

(s) *1 Pet. i. 8.* Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now I see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. *Rom. iv. 18, 19, 20, 21.* Abraham against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God: and being fully persuaded, that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. *Psal. lxxxix. 36, 37, 38, 39.* His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. *Selah.* But thou hast cast off and abhorred, thou hast been wroth with thine anointed, Thou hast made void the covenant of thy servant: thou hast profaned his crown, by casting it to the ground.

(a) *Jam. iii. 2.* If any man offend not in word, the same is a
 per-

Yet he whose *thoughts* and *deeds* are bad,
 The law-perfection never had (b).
 I am design'd a perfect soul,
 Ev'n though I never kept the whole,
 Nor any precept (c); for 'tis known,
 He breaks them all that breaks but one (d).
 By faith I do *perfection* claim (e),
 By works I never grasp the name (f):
 Yet without works my faith is nought (g),
 And thereby no perfection brought.

Works

perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

(b) *Jam. ii. 10.* For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

(c) *Rom. iv. 5, 6.* To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works. *Job. i. 1.* There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. *Psal. lxxi. 16.* I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. *Ecc. vii. 20.* For there is not a just man upon earth, that doth good, and sinneth not.

(d) *Jam. ii. 10.* See letter (b).

(e) *Phil. iii. 9.* I count all things but dung that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

(f) *Gal. ii. 16.* Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ: Even we have believed in Jesus Christ; that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

(g) *Jam. ii. 14.* What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

(h) *Heb. xi. 6.* Without faith it is impossible to please God for he that cometh to God, must believe that he is, and that he is a reward.

Works without faith will never speed (*b*),
 Faith without works is wholly dead (*i*);
 Yet I am justify'd by faith,
 Which no law-works adjutant hath (*k*).

Yea, gospel works no help can lend (*l*),
 Though still they do my faith attend (*m*):

Yet

rewarder of them that diligently seek him. *Rom. xiv. 13.* Whatsoever is not of faith, is sin.

(*i*) *Jam. ii. 17.* Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone. *v. 26.* For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

(*k*) *Rom. iii. 21, 22.* But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets: even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe, for there is no difference. *Chap. iv. 4, 5, 6.* Now to him that worketh, is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works.

(*l*) *Philip. iii. 4, 6, 7, 8, 9.* If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: — touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain for me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless and I count all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung that I may win Christ, and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. *Isa. lxiv. 6.* But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. *Hos. xiii. 9.* O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself, but in me is thine help. *Isa. xlv. 24, 25.* Surely, shall one say in the Lord have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come, and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed. In the Lord shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.

(*m*) *Tit. iii. 8.* This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God, might be careful to maintain good works: these things are good and

Yet faith by works is *perfect* made,
And by their presence justify'd (*n*).

But works with faith could never vie,
And only faith can justify (*o*):
Yet still my justifying faith
No justifying value hath (*p*).

Lo, justifying grace from heav'n
Is foreign ware, and freely giv'n (*q*):

and profitable unto men. *Jam.* ii. 18. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

(*n*) *Jam.* ii. 21, 22. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? *v.* 24. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

(*o*) *Rom.* iv. 16. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed. *Tit.* iii. 4, 5, 6, 7. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the holy Ghost: which he shed on us abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. *Acts* x. 43. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name, whosoever believeth in him, shall receive remission of sins.

(*p*) *Gal.* iii. 21, 22. Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. *Luke* xxiii. 31, 32. And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not; and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. *2 Cor.* iii. 5. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves: but our sufficiency is of God. *Chap.* xii. 5. Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

(*q*) *Rom.* v. 16, 17. — The free gift is of many offences unto justification

And saving faith is well content
To be a mere recipient (r).

Faith's *active* in my *sanctity* (s);
But *here* its act it will deny (s),
And frankly own it never went
Beyond a *passive* instrument (t).

I labour much like holy *Paul*;
And yet not I, but grace does all (u):

fication. — They which receive abundance of grace, and of the gift of righteousness, shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. *Chap. iii. 24.* Being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ.

(r) *Rom. v. 11.* And not only so, but we also joy in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement. *v. 17.* See letter (q).

(s) *Gal. v. 6.* For in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love. *Acts xv. 9.* God put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. *Chap. xxvi. 18.* To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

(t) *Rom. iv. 16.* Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace. *Chap. xi. 6.* And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.

(u) *Eph. ii. 8-9.* For by grace are ye saved, through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. *1 Cor. iv. 7.* For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory as if thou hadst not received it? *Heb. xi. 11.* Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. *v. 17.* By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises, offered up his only begotten son: *v. 19.* Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. *v. 35.* Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection.

(v) *1 Cor.*

I try to spread my little sails,
 And wait for pow'rful moving gales (*v*).
 When pow'r's convey'd I work; but see,
 'Tis still his pow'r that works in me:
 I am an agent at his call,
 Yet nothing am for grace is all (*w*).

II *Of rewards of grace and debt.*

IN all my works I still regard
 The recompence of full reward (*x*);
 Yet such my working is withal,
 I look for no reward at all (*y*).

God's

(*u*) 1 *Cor.* xv. 10. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me, was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

(*v*) *Psal.* lxxi. 16. I will go in the strength of the Lord God: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only *Song.* iv. 16. Awake, O north wind, and come thou south, blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out.

(*w*) *Philip.* ii. 12, 13. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence; work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. *Gal.* ii. 28. I am crucified with Christ: Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. 1 *Cor.* xii. 9. And the Lord said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(*x*) *Heb.* xi. 24, 25, 26. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

(*y*) 1 *Tim.* i. 9. God hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling,

God's my reward exceeding great,
 No lesser heav'n than this I wait (z):
 But where's the earning work so broad,
 To set me up an heir of God (a)?
 Rewards of debt, rewards of grace,
 Are opposites in ev'ry case (b):
 Yet sure I am they'll both agree
 Most jointly in rewarding me (c)
 Though hell's my just reward for sin (d),
 Heav'n as my just reward I'll win (e).

calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus, before the world began. *Tit. iii. 5.* Not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

(z) *Gen. xv. 1.* After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram; I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward. *Psal. lxxiii. 25, 26.* Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire besides thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

(a) *Ezek. xxxvi. 32.* Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. *Rom. viii. 16, 17.* The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs: heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.

(b) *Rom. iv. 4.* Now to him that worketh, is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

(c) *Psal. lviii. 11.* Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth. *Is. lxii. 12.* Behold. The Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. *Chap. xl. 10.* Behold, the Lord God will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

(d) *Rom. vi. 21.* What fruit had ye then in those things, whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. *v. 23.* The wages of sin is death. *Eph. v. 6.* Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things, cometh the wrath of

Both these my just rewards I know,
 Yet truly neither of them so *.
 Hell can't in justice be my lot,
 Since justice satisfaction got (*f*) ;
 Nor heav'n in justice be my share,
 Since mercy only brings me there (*g*).
 Yet heav'n is mine by solemn oath,
 In justice and in mercy both (*h*) :

of God upon the children of disobedience *G. l. iii. 10* For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse : for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

(*e*) *Gal. iii. 13, 14* Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us : for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree : that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith *Eph. i. 13, 14* In Christ also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. *Rom. v. 21* Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. Chap. vi. 25. The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* *through these opposite voices of law and gospel.*

(*f*) *Rom. iii. 25, 26* Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God ; to declare, I say, at this time his righteousness : that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

(*g*) *Rem. ix. 15, 16* God saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. *Tit. iii. 4, 5, 6, 7* But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness, which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost : which he shed on us abundantly, through Jesus Christ our Saviour ; that being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

(*h*) *Psal.*

And God in *Christ* is all my trust,
Because he's merciful and just (i).

C O N C L U S I O N.

HERE is the riddle, where's the man
Of judgment to expound?
For *masters* fam'd that cannot scan,
In *Isr'el* may be found (a).
We justly those in wisdom list
Establish'd saints may call,
Whose bitter sweet experience blest
Can clearly grasp it all (b).

(b) *Psal.* lxxxix. 35, 36. Once have I sworn by my holiness, that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. *Heb.* vi. 17, 18. Wherein God willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lye, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us. *Psal.* lxxxix. 14. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. *v.* 16. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted. *v.* 24. But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him [David my servant]: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. *v.* 28. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

(i) *Heb.* ii. 17. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren; that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest, in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 1. *John* i. 7, 8, 9. If he walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful, and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(a) *John.* iii. 10. Jesus answered and said unto Nicodemus, Art thou a master of Israel and knowest not these things?

(b) *Matth.* xi. 26. At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee,

Some babes in grace may mint and man,
 Yet aiming right succeed (c):
 But *strangers* they in *Iſr'el* are,
 Who not at all can read (d).

thee. O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, becauſe thou haſt hid theſe things from the wiſe and prudent, and haſt revealed them unto babes. *Chap. xiii. 11.* Jeſus answered and ſaid unto his diſciples Be cauſe it is given unto you to know the myſteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

(c) *1 Cor. iii. 1, 2.* And I, brethren, could not ſpeak unto you as unto ſpiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Chriſt. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. *Heb. v. 12, 13, 14.* For when ſhould ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the firſt principles of the oracles of God; and are become ſuch as have need of milk, and not of ſtrong meat. For every one that uſeth milk, is unſkilful in the word of righteouſneſs: for he is a babe. But ſtrong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even thoſe who, by reaſon of uſe, have their ſenſes exerciſed to diſcern both good and evil. *Chap. vi. 1.* Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Chriſt, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God. *&c. 1 John ii. 12, 13.* I write unto you, little children, becauſe your ſins are forgiven you for his name's ſake. — I write unto you, little children, becauſe ye have known the Father.

(d) *2 Cor. iv. 3, 4.* But if our goſpel be hid, it is hid to them that are loſt: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, leſt the light of the glorious goſpel of Chriſt, who is the image of God, ſhould ſhine unto them.

GOSPEL SONNETS;

O R,

SPIRITUAL SONGS.

PART IV.

*The BELIEVER'S LODGING and Inn
while on Earth.*

O R,

A Poem and Paraphrase upon Psal. lxxxiv.

Ver. 1. *How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord
of hosts!*

JEHOVAH, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Sole Monarch of the universal host,
Whom the attendant armies still revere,
Which in bright robes surround the higher sphere;
Whose sov'reign empire sways the hellish band
Of ranked legions in th' infernal land;
Who hold'st the earth at thy unrival'd beck,
And stay'st proud forces with a humbling check;
Ev'n thou whose name commands an awful dread,
Yet deigns to dwell with man in very deed:
O what refreshment fills the dwelling-place
Of thine exuberant unbounded grace!

Which

Which with sweet pow'r does joy and praise extort,
 In Zion's tents, thine ever-lov'd resort :
 Where glad'ning streams of mercy from above
 Make souls brim ful of warm seraphic love.
 Of sweetest odours all thy garment smells ;
 Thy dismal absence proves a thousand hells,
 But heav'n's of joy are where thine honour dwells. }

Ver. 2. My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord : my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

Therefore on thee I center my desire,
 Which veh'mently bursts out in ardent fire,
 Deprived, ah ! I languish in my plaint,
 My bones are feeble and my spirits faint.
 My longing soul pants to behold again
 Thy temple fill'd with thy majestic train ;
 Those palaces with heav'nly odour strew'd,
 And regal courts, where Zion's King is view'd :
 To see the beauty of the highest One.
 Upon his holy mount, his lofty throne ;
 Whence virtue running from the living Head
 Restores the dying, and revives the dead.
 For him my heart with cries repeated sounds,
 To which my flesh with echoes loud rebounds ;
 For him, for him, who life in death can give,
 For him, for him, whose sole prerogative
 Is from and to eternity to live. }

Ver. 3. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Alas ! how from thy lovely dwellings I,
 Long banish'd, do the happy birds envy ;

Which, chusing thy high altars for their nest,
 On rafters of thy tabernacle rest !
 Here dwells the *sparrow* of a chirping tongue,
 And here the *swallow* lays her tender young:
 Faint sacrilege ; they seize the sacred spot,
 And seem to glory o'er my absent lot.
 Yet sure I have more special right to thee
 Than all the brutal hosts of earth and sea ;
 That Sov'reign, at whose government they bow,
 Is wholly mine by his eternal vow :
 My King to rule my heart, and quell my foes,
 My God t'extract my well from present woes,
 And crown with endless glory at the close. }

Ver. 4. *Blessed are they that dwell in thy house :
 they will be still praising thee.*

O happy they that haunt thy house below,
 And to thy royal sanctuary flow ;
 Not for itself, but for the glorious One,
 Who there inhabits his erected throne !
 Others pass by, but here thy dwelling is ;
 O happy people crown'd with bays of bliss !
 Bless'd with the splendid lustre of his face,
 Bless'd with the high melodious sound of grace,
 That wakens souls into a sweet amaze.
 And turns their spirits to a harp of praise ;
 Which loudly makes the lower temple ring
 With *Hallelujahs* to the mighty King :
 And thus they antedate the nobler song
 Of that celestial and triumphant throng, }

Ver. 5. *Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee :—*

What weights of bliss their happy shoulders load,
 Whose strength lies treasur'd in a potent God ?

Self-

Self-drained souls, yet flowing to the brim,
 Because void in themselves, but full in him.
Adam the first discuss'd their stock of strength,
 The second well retriev'd the sum at length;
 Who keeps't himself, a surer hand indeed,
 To give not as they list, but as they need.
 When raging furies threaten sudden harms,
 He then extends his everlasting arms;
 When Satan drives his pointed fiery darts,
 He gives them courage and undaunted hearts
 To quell his deadly force with divine skill,
 And adds new strength to do their Sov'reign's will:
 When sore harass'd by some outrageous lost,
 He levelling its pow'r unto the dust,
 Makes saints to own him worthy of their trust. }

Ver. 6. *In whose hearts are the ways of them,
 who passing through the valley of Baca, make it
 a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*

Such heav'n-born souls are not to earth confin'd
 Truth's high-way fills their elevated mind:
 They, bound for *Zion*, press with forward aim,
 As *Isr'el's* males to old *Jerusalem*.
 Their holy path lies through a parched land,
 Through oppositions numerous and grand.
 Traversing scorched deserts, ragged rocks,
 And *Baca's* wither'd vale, like thirsty flocks,
 Yet with unbaken vigour homeward go;
 Not mov'd by all opposing harms below.
 They digging wells on this *Gilboa* top,
 The vale of *Achor* yields a door of hope:
 For Heav'n in plenty does their labour crown
 By making silver show'rs to trickle down,

Till empty pools imbibe a pleasant fill
 And weary souls are heart'ned up the hill,
 By massy drops of joy which down distill.

*Verf. 7. They go from strength to strength, every
 one of them in Zion appeareth before God.*

Thus they, refreshed by superior aid,
 Are not defatigated nor dismay'd;
 Because they are, O truth of awful dread!
 As potent as JEHOVAH in their Head.
 Hence they shall travel with triumphant minds,
 In spite of ragged paths and boist'rous winds.
 The roughest ways their vigour ne'er abates,
 Each new assault their strength redintegrates.
 When they through mortal blows seem to give o'er,
 Their strength by intermitting gathers more,
 And thus they, with unweary'd zeal endu'd,
 Still as they journey have their strength renew'd.
 So glorious is the race that once begun,
 Each one contends his fellow to outrun;
 Till all uniting in a glorious band,
 Before the Lamb's high throne adoring stand,
 And harp his lofty praise in Zion-land.

*Verf. 8. O Lord God of hosts, hear my pray'r; give
 ear, O God of Jacob.*

Great God of num'rous hosts, who reigns alone
 The sole possessor of th' imperial throne:
 Since mental tastes of thy delicious grace
 So sweetly relish in thy holy place,
 This is the subject of my tabled pray'r,
 To have the vision of thy glory there.
 O let my cry pierce the ethereal frame,
 And mercy's echo follow down the same.

Omniscient Being, favour my desire,
 Hide not thy goodnels in paternal ire :
 Why, thou hast giv'n in an eternal band
 To *Jacob* and his seed thy royal hand,
 And promis'd, by thy sacred deity,
 His King and covenanted God to be ;
 Therefore my hopes are center'd all in thee.

Ver. 9. *Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon
 the face of thine anointed.*

Omnipotent, whose armour none can wield,
 Zion's great buckler and defensive shield ;
 Thy pure untainted eyes cannot behold
 Deformed mortals in their sinful mold,
 Unless their names be graved on the breast
 Of Zion's holy consecrated Priest.
 When they his white and glorious garment wear,
 Then sin and guilt both wholly disappear ;
 Because o'erwhelmed in the crimson flood,
 And ocean of a dying Surety's blood :
 They also, vested with his radiant grace,
 Reflect the lustre of his holy face.
 They're not themselves now, but divinely trim ;
 For wholly what they are, they are in him ;
 And hence JEHOVAH's all-discerning eye
 Cannot in them espy deformity.
 Then look on him, Lord, and in him on me.

Ver. 10. *For a day in thy courts is better than a
 thousand ; I had rather be a door-keeper in the
 house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of
 wickedness.*

May I possess, as thy domestic child,
 The house that by JEHOVAH's name is styl'd :

For royal glories deck those courts of thine,
 Which with majestic rays so brightly shine,
 That should my mind present an earth of gold,
 As full of worldly joys as earth can hold;
 Sweet grace so fills thy house, I'd grudge to spare
 One moment here, for thousand ages there.
 No earthly object shall my love confine,
 That Being which possesses all, is mine.
 My spirit therefore rather would embrace
 The meanest office in his holy place,
 And by the threshold of his house within,
 Than sit in splendor on a throne of sin.
 In *Jesus'* courts I'd chuse the lowest place,
 At his saints feet, so I might see his face.
 Yea, tho' my lamp of outward peace should burn
 Most brightly, yet I would incessant mourn,
 While in a wicked *Mesoch* I sojourn.

*Ver. 11. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the
 Lord will give grace and glory; no good thing
 will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

For God the Lord, whose courts I love to haunt,
 Is every thing that empty souls can want;
 A sun for light, a shield for strength; yea more,
 On earth he gives his grace, in heav'n his glore.
 This radiant sun, of life and light the source,
 Scatters the shades by's circumambient course;
 Yea, guides benighted souls with heartsom beams,
 And gloriously irradiating gleams.
 This massy shield is polish'd bright with pow'r,
 For helping weaklings in a perilous hour.
 Here's all that weary travellers would have,
 A sun to cherish, and a shield to save.
 Grace also here is given to adorn the soul,
 And yield to glory in the heav'nly pole.

All divine treasure to the saint is due ;
 Nothing's deny'd, if truth itself be true.
 The treasure is so vast it can't be told ;
 Nothing that God can give will God with-hold.
 To whom he doth his saving grace impart,
 To them he gives himself, his hand, his heart ;
 Uprightneſs too of heart and life does fall
 Unto their ſhare, who having him, have all.
 In them the grace he gives, he ſtill regards ;
 Gives holineſs, and then his gift rewards.
 For to his own upright and divine brood
 He's bound to grant ev'n all that's great and good,
 By's own ſure word, firm oath, and ſacred blood. }

Ver. 12. *O Lord of hoſts, bleſſed is the man that
 truſteth in thee.*

O then JEHOVAH, God of armies ſtrong,
 To whom the pow'rs of earth and heav'n belong ;
 How vaſtly bleſſed is the fixed man,
 Who by a firm ſiducial boldneſs can,
 Through grace and ſtrength diſpenſed from above,
 So ſweetly ſcan the height of divine love,
 As to derive his comfort wholly thence,
 And on this rock to found his confidence ?
 Whoſe faith has rear'd up for a firm abode
 A ſtable building on a living God ?
 Who, ſpoil'd of human props both great mall,
 Does chuſe a triune Deity for all ?
 What ſcrolls of bliſs are in this *all* inroll'd,
 Is too ſublime for ſeraphs to unfold
 Sit, human wiſdom, in a deep amaze !
 Let rapid floods of life his glory raiſe,
 Till time be drown'd in his eternal praiſe. }

Exercise for the BELIEVER in his Lodging, fourfold.

1. *The HOLY LAW.*

O R.

The Ten Commandments, *Exod. xx. 3. &c.*

1. **N**O God but me thou shalt adore.
2. **N**O image frame to bow before.
3. My holy name take not in vain.
4. My sacred sabbath don't profane.
5. To parents render due respect.
6. All murder shun, and malice check.
7. From filth and whoredom base abstain.
8. From theft and all unlawful gain.
9. False witness flee, and stand'ring spite.
10. Nor covet what's thy neighbour's right.

2. *The UNHOLY HEART the direct opposite to God's law, Rom. vii. 14.*

O R,

The knowledge of sin by the law, *Rom. iii. 20.*

1. **M**Y heart's to many gods a slave.
2. **M**Of imagery a hideous cave.
3. An hoard of God-dishon'ring crimes.
4. A waster base of holy times.
5. A throne of pride and self conceit.
6. A slaughter-house of wrath and hate.
7. A cage of birds and thoughts unclean.
8. A den of thieves and frauds unseen.

9. An heap of calumnies unspent.
 10. A gulph of greed and discontent.

3. *The GLORIOUS GOSPEL,*

O R,

Christ the end of the law for righteousness, *Rom. x. 4.*

And the absolute need of this remedy inferred from
 the premisses.

HENCE I conclude and clearly see
 There's by the law no life for me;
 Which damns each soul to endless thrall,
 Whose heart and life fulfils not all.
 What shall I do, unless for bail
 I from the law to grace appeal?
 She reigns through *Jesus'* righteousness,
 Which giving justice full redress,
 On grace's door this motto grav'd,
Let sin be damn'd, and sinners sav'd.
 O wisdom's deep mysterious way!
 Lo, at this door I'll waiting stay,
 Till sin and hell both pass away.
 But in this bliss to shew my part,
 Grant, through thy law grav'd in my heart,
 My life may shew thy graving art.

4. *The PRAYER of FAITH.*

Which may be conceived in the following words
 of a certain Author.

SUM tuus in vita, tua sunt mea funera, *Christe;*
Da, precor, imperii sceptrum tenere tui,

Cur etenim, moriens, tot vulnera saeva tulisti,

Si non sum regni portio parva tui?

Cur rigido latuit tua vita inclusa sepulchro,

Si non est mea mors morte fugata tua?

Ergo mihi certam praestes, O Christe, salutem,

Meque tuo lotum sanguine, Christe, juva.

Which may be thus Englished:

Jesus, I'm thine in life and death,

Oh let me conqu'ring hold thy throne.

Why shar'd the cross thy vital breath,

If not to make me share thy crown?

Why laid in jail of cruel grave,

If not thy death from death me free;

Then, Lord, insure the bliss I crave,

Seal'd with thy blood, and succour me.

G O S P E L

GOSPEL SONNETS;
OR,
SPIRITUAL SONGS.

PART V.

*The BELIEVER'S SOLILOQUY;
especially in Times of Desertion, Temptation, Affliction.*

SECT. I.

*The deserted BELIEVER longing for perfect freedom
from sin.*

A H mournful case ! what can afford
Contentment when an absent Lord
Will now his kindness neither prove
By smiles of grace, nor lines of love ?

What heart can joy, what soul can sing,
While winter over-runs the spring ?
I die, yet can't my death condole ;
Lord, save a dying, drooping soul.

In pain, yet unconcern'd, I live,
And languish when I should believe.
Lord, if thou cease to come and stay,
My soul in sin will pine away.

In sin, whose ill no tongue can tell,
To live is death, to die is hell :
O save, if not from thrall's arrest,
Yet save me, Lord, from sin at least.

This for his merit's sake I seek,
Whose blood and wounds do mercy speak ;
Who left the rank of glorious choirs,
And heavenly flow'rs for earthly briars.

Our *Samson* took an holy nap
Upon our feeble nature's lap :
He wand'ring in a pilgrim's weed,
Did taste our griefs, to help our need,

Earth's fury did upon him light :
How black was *Herod's* cruel spite !
Who, to be sure of murd'ring one,
Lest he be spar'd, did pity none !

Hell hunts the babe a few days old,
That came to rifle *Satan's* fold :
All hands pursu'd him ev'n to death,
That came to save from sin and wrath.

O mercy ! ignorant of bounds !
Which all created thought confounds ;
He ran outright a saving race
For them that unto death him chase.

O sin ! how heavy is thy weight,
That press'd the glorious God of might,
Till prostrate on the freezing ground,
He sweat his clotted blood around !

His hand the ponderous globe does prop,
'This weight ne'er made him sweat a drop :
But when sin's load upon him lies,
He falls and sweats, and groans and dies.

Alas ! if God sink under sin,
How shall the man that dies therein ?
How deeply down, when to the load
He adds the slighted blood of God ?

Lord, let thy fall my rise obtain,
Thy grievous shame my glory gain ;
Thy cross my lasting crown procure,
Thy death my endless life insure.

O send me down a draught of love,
Or take me hence to drink above ;
Here *Marah's* water fills my cup,
But there all griefs are swallow'd up.

Love here is scarce a faint desire,
But there the spark's a flaming fire.
Joys here are drops that passing flee,
But there an ever-flowing sea.

My faith, that sees so darkly here,
Will there resign to vision clear :
My hope, that's here a weary groan,
Will to fruition yield the throne.

Here fetters hamper freedom's wing,
But there the captive is a king :
And grace is like a bury'd seed,
But sinners there are saints indeed.

My portion's here a crumb at best,
But there the Lamb's eternal feast ;
My praise is now a smother'd fire,
But then I'll sing and never tire.

Now dusky shadows cloud my day,
But then the shades will flee away :
My Lord will break the dimming glass,
And shew his glory face to face.

My num'rous foes now beat me down,
 But then I'll wear the victor's crown;
 Yet all the revenues I'll bring
 To Zion's everlasting King.

S E C T II.

*The deserted BELIEVER'S prayer under complaints
 of unbelief, darkness, deadness, and hardness.*

W HAT means this wicked wandring heart?
 This trembling ague of my soul?
 Would *Jesus* but a look impart,
 One look from him would make me whole.

But will he turn to me his face,
 From whom he justly did withdraw?
 To me who slighted all that grace
 I in my past experience saw?

Lord, for thy promise sake return
 Apply thy pard'ning, cleansing blood;
 Look down with pity on a worm,
 With cov'nant-mercy do me good.

When thy free Sp'rit the word applies,
 And kindly tells me thou art mine,
 My faithless sinking heart replies,
 Ah Lord! I wish I could be thine.

My faith's so 'nighted in my doubts,
 I cast the offer'd good away,
 And lose by raising vain disputes,
 The wonted blessings of the day.

Was e'er one press'd with such a load,
 Or pierc'd with such an unseen dart;
 To find at once an absent God,
 And yet, alas! a careless heart?

Such grief as mine a griefless grief,
Did ever any mortal share?

An hopeless hope, a lifeless life,
Or such unwonted careless care?

'Tis sad, Lord! when for night's solace
Nor moon, nor starry gleams appear;
Yet worse, when in this dismal case
My heart is hard'ned from thy fear.

'Twas not because no show'rs did flow
Of heav'nly manna at my door;
But by my folly I'm into
A worse condition than before.

Come, Lord, with greater pow'r; for why,
Mine, sure, is not a common case;
Thou offer'st to unvail; yet I
Do scarce incline to see thy face.

Such languid faint desires I feel
Within this wicked stupid heart;
I should, I would, but that I will
I hardly dare with truth assert.

O to be free of that vile wrack,
That basely keeps me from my God!
I flee from thee, Lord bring me back
By tender love, or by thy rod.

In paths of righteousness direct,
New proofs of thy remission give;
Then of thy name I'll mention make
With grateful praises while I live;

On banks of mercy's boundless deep
With sweeter ease I'll soar and sing,
Than kings of feather'd hosts, that sweep
The oozy shore with easy wing.

But if thy mind omniscient know
I'm for this absent bliss unfit,
Give grace to hate my sins, and to
Their righteous punishment submit.

But let me ne'er thy Spirit lack,
That by his aid my pray'rs may come
Before him, who can wisely make
Ev'n distance lead his people home.

Deep wisdom can my soul prepare
By present woes for absent bliss.
By acid griefs that now I share
He can convey the joys I miss.

Who all from nothing's womb disclos'd,
Can make th' amazing product cease;
With him our order is confus'd
By him confusion brings forth peace.

Then, Lord, ne'er let me basely spurn
Against thy searchless unknown ways;
But magnify thy work, and turn
My groans and murmurs into praise.

Let me submissive, while I live,
Thy awful justice own with fear:
Yet pensive let me never grieve—
Thy tender mercy by despair.

Since though by sin I foully swerv'd,
And lewdly from my glory fell,
I'm chast'ned here, and not reserv'd
To feel the weight of sin in hell;

Thy high right hand's once joyful days
In my distress I'll call to mind;
And own that all thy darkest ways
Will clearly prove thee good and kind.

S E C T. III.

*The BELIEVER wading through deeps of desertion
and corruption.*

LORD, when thy face thou hid'st.
And leav'st me long to plore,
I faithless doubt of all thou didst
And wrought'st for me before.

No marks of love I find,
No grains of grace. but wracks ;
No track of heav'n is left behind,
No groan, no smocking flax,
But say if all the gusts
And grains of love be spent,
Say, *Farewel Christ, and welcome lusts ;*
Stop, stop, I melt, I faint.

Lord, yet thou hast my heart,
This bargain black I hate ;
I dare not, cannot, will not part
With thee at such a rate.

Once, like a father good,
Thou didst with grace perfume ;
Wast thou a father to conclude
With dreadful judge's doom ?

Confirm thy former deed,
Reform what is defil'd ;
I was, I am, I'll still abide
Thy choice, thy charge, thy child.

Love-seals thou didst impart,
Lock'd up in mind I have ;

Hell cannot rase out of my heart
What Heav'n did there engrave.

Thou once didst make me whole
By thy almighty hand ;
Thou mad'st me vow and gift my soul ;
Both vow and gift shall stand.

But since my folly gross
My joyful cup did spill,
Make me the captive of thy cross,
Submissive to thy will.

Self in myself I hate,
That's matter of my groan ;
Nor can I rid me from the mate
That causes me to moan.

O frail, unconstant flesh !
Soon trapt in every gin ;
Soon turn'd, o'erturn'd, and so afresh
Plung'd in the gulph of sin.

Shall I be slave to sin,
My Lord's most bloody foe ?
I feel its pow'rful sway within,
How long shall it be so ?

How long, Lord, shall I stay !
How long in *Mesech* here ?
Dishon'ring thee from day to day,
Whose name's to me so dear ?

While sin, Lord, breeds my grief,
And makes me sadly pine ;
With blinks of grace O grant relief,
Till beams of glory shine.

S E C T. IV.

Complaint of sin, sorrow, and want of love.

IF black doom by desert should go,
Then Lord, my due desert is death :
Which robs from souls immortal joy,
And from their bodies mortal breath.

But in so great a Saviour,
Can e'er so base a worm's annoy
Add any glory to thy pow'r,
Or any gladness to thy joy ?

Thou justly mayst me doom to death,
And everlasting flames of fire :
But on a wretch to pour thy wrath
Can never sure be worth thine ire.

Since *Jesus* the atonement was,
Let tender mercy me release ;
Let him be umpire of my cause,
And pass the glad-ome doom of peace.

Let grace forgive, and love forget
My base, my vile apostasy :
And temper thy deserved hate
With love and mercy toward me.

The ruffling winds and raging blasts
Hold me in constant cruel chace ;
They break my anchors, sails and masts,
Allowing no reposing place.

The boist'rous seas with swelling floods
On ev'ry side against me fight.
Heav'n, overcast with stormy clouds,
Dims all the planets guiding light.

The hellish furies lie in wait
To win my soul into their pow'r ;
To make me bite at ev'ry bait,
And thus my killing bane devour.

I lie inchain'd in sin and thrall,
Next border unto black despair ;
Till grace-restore, and of my fall
The doleful ruins all repair.

My hov'ring thoughts would flee to glore,
And nestle safe above the sky ;
Fain would my tumbling ship ashore
At that sure anchor quiet lie.

But mounting thoughts are haled down
With heavy poise of corrupt load ;
And blust'ring storms deny with frown
An harbour of secure abode.

To drown the wight that wakes the blast,
Thy sin subduing grace afford ;
The storm might cease, could I but cast
This troublous *Jonah* over-board.

Base flesh, with fleshly pleasures gain'd,
Sweet grace's kindly suit declines ;
When mercy courts me for its friend,
Anon my fordid flesh repines.

Soar up, my soul, to *Tabor* hill,
Cast off this lothsome pressing load ;
Long is the date of thine exile,
While absent from thy Lord, thy God.

Dote not on earthly weeds and toys,
Which do not, cannot suit thy taste :
The flow'rs of everlasting joys
Grow up apace for thy repast.

Sith that the glorious God above
 In *Jesus* bears a love to thee;
 How base, how brutish is thy love
 Of any being less than he?
 Who for thy love did chuse thy grief,
 Content in love to live and die:
 Who lov'd thy love more than his life,
 And with his life my love did buy.
 Since then the God of richest love
 With thy poor love enamour'd is;
 How high a crime will thee reprove,
 If not enamour'd deep with his?
 Since on the verdant field of grace
 His love does thine so hot pursue;
 Let love meet love with chaste embrace,
 Thy mite a thousand-fold is due.
 Rise, love, thou early heav'n, and sing,
 Young little dawn of endless day:
 I'll on thy mounting fiery wing
 In joyful raptures melt away.

S E C T. V.

*The deserted soul's prayer for the Lord's gracious
and sin-subduing presence.*

KInd *Jesus*, come in love to me,
 And make no longer stay;
 Or else receive my soul to thee,
 That breathes to be away.

A Lazar at thy gate I lie,
 As well it me becomes,
 For children's bread asham'd to cry:
 O grant a dog the crumbs.

My wounds and rags my need proclaim,
Thy needful help insure :
My wounds bear witness that I'm lame,
My rags that I am poor.

Thou many at thy door dost feed
With mercy when distressed :
O wilt thou not shew an alms-deed
To me among the rest ?

None else can give my soul relief,
None else can ease my moan,
But he whose absence is my grief :
All other joys be gone.

How can I cease from sad complaint ?
How can I be at rest ?
My mind can never me content
To want my noble guest.

Drop down, mine eyes, and never tire,
Cease not on any terms,
Until I have my heart's desire,
My Lord within mine arms.

My heart, my hand, my spirits fail,
When hiding off he goes ;
My flesh, my foes, my lusts prevail,
And work my daily woes.

When shall I see that glorious sight
Will all my sins destroy ?
That Lord of love, that lamp of light,
Will banish all annoy ?

O could I but from sinning cease,
And wait on *Pisgah's* hill,
Until I see him face to face,
Then should my soul be still.

But since corruption cleaves to me
While I in *Kedar* dwell;
O give me leave to long for thee,
For absence is a hell.

Thy glory should be dear to me,
Who me so dear has bought:
O save from rend'ring ill to thee
For good which thou hast wrought.

With fear I crave, with hope I cry,
Oh promis'd favour send;
Be thou thyself, though chang'ling I
Ungratefully offend.

Out of thy way remove the lets,
Cleanse this polluted den;
Tender my suits, cancel my debts:
Sweet *Jesus*, say, Amen.

S E C T, VI.

The song of heaven desired by saints on earth.

AURORA vails her rosy face,
When brighter *Phoebus* takes her place;
So glad will grace resign her room
To glory in the heav'nly home.

Happy the company that's gone
From cross to crown, from thrall to throne;
How loud they sing upon the shore,
To which they sail'd in heart before!

Bless'd are the dead, yea, saith the word,
That die in *Christ* the living Lord,
And on the other side of death
Thus joyful spend their praising breath:

- “ Death from all death has set us free,
“ And will our gain for ever be;
“ Death loos’d the massy chains of woe,
“ To let the mournful captives go.
“ Death is to us a sweet repose;
“ The bud was op’d to shew the rose;
“ The cage was broke to let us fly,
“ And build our happy nest on high.
“ Lo, here we do triumphant reign,
“ And joyful sing in lofty strain;
“ Lo, here we rest, and love to be,
“ Enjoying more than faith could see.
“ The thousandth part we now behold,
“ By mortal tongues was never told;
“ We got a taste, but now above
“ We forage in the fields of love.
“ Faith once stole down a distant kiss,
“ Now love cleaves to the cheek of bliss:
“ Beyond the fears of more mishap
“ We gladly rest in glory’s lap.
“ Earth was to us a seat of war,
“ In thrones of triumph now we are.
“ We long’d to see our *Jesus* dear,
“ And sought him there, but find him here.
“ We walk in white without annoy,
“ In glorious galleries of joy;
“ And crown’d with everlasting bays,
“ We rival *Cherubs* in their praise.
“ No longer we complain of wants,
“ We see the glorious King of saints,
“ Amidst his joyful hosts around,
“ With all the divine glory crown’d.

“ We

Weakness perfection doth exclude,
 The law is perfect, just, and good (k):
 Yet can it nothing perfect make,
 But all the comers to it break (l).

Strength to the gospel does belong,
 Mighty through God it is, and strong (m):
 It to the law doth strength emit,
 Yet 'tis the law gives strength to it.

The gospel gives the law, I see,
 Sufficient strength to justify (n);

1. Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus. *v.* 10 — Our Saviour Jesus Christ — hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light, through the gospel.

(i) *2 Cor.* ii. 16. To the one we are the savour of death unto death, &c.

(k) *Psal.* cxix. 96. I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad. *Rom.* vii. 12. Wherefore the law is holy; and the commandment holy, and just, and good. *Heb.* vii. 19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God

(l) *Heb.* vii. 19 See letter (k.) *Chap.* x. 1. For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things can never with those sacrifices, which they offered year by year continually, make the comers thereunto perfect.

(m) *Rom.* i. 16. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. *2 Cor.* x. 4. 5. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds: casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exulteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

(n) *Rom.* viii. 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. *v.* 3, 4. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Yet may I say, in truth it is
 The law that gives the gospel this (o).
 For as the law no sinner clears,
 But who the gospel-garment wears;
 So none are justify'd by grace,
 Unless the law-demand have place (p).
 Again the law, which yet seems worse,
 Gives gospel-news condemning force (q);
 Yet they are news that never can,
 Nor ever will condemn a man (r).
 Dread threat'nings to the law pertain (s),
 Not to the gospel's golden chain (t):

(o) *Rom* iii. 31. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law. *Chap.* x. 4. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

(p) *Rom* iii. 19, 20, 21, 22. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference. *Chap.* v. 19.—By the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. *v.* 21.—Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord.

(q) *John* iii. 18. He that believeth on him, is not condemned: but he that believeth not, is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

(r) *Luke* ii. 10, 11. And the angel said unto them [the shepherds], Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. *John* iii. 17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. *Chap.* xii. 47. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

(s) *Gal.* iii. 10. For as many as are of the works of the law, are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth

Yet all law-threats and Sinai's ire
To gospel-grace are walls of fire (u).

The righteous law assaileth none
Of Adam's guilty race, save one (v);
Who being guilty, for this cause
By God's just law condemned was (w).

Yet free of guilt it did him see;
Hence fully clear'd and set him free (x):

meaneth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

(t) *Ab's* xiii. 26. Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

(u) *Mark* xvi. 16.—He that believeth not, shall be damned. *Heb.* ii. 3. How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? *Chap.* x. 26, 27, 28, 29. See letter (d) forecited.

(v) *Rom* v. 19. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners: so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. *John* xvii. 4. I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

(w) *Is.* liii. 6.—The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. *Gal.* iii. 13. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

(x) *Heb.* vii. 26. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens. *Dan.* ix. 24. Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy. *1 Tim.* iii. 16. And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. *Rom.* ii. 13. For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. *Is.* i. 8. He is near that justifieth me, who will contend with me? let us stand together, who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

Yet, had not guilt his soul involv'd,
 By law he could not been absolv'd (y).
 But he withal condemn'd and spoil'd
 The law of works, which him assail'd (z):
 And now the law is (in these views)
 The marrow of the gospel-news (a).
 The law can justify no man
 That is a sinner (b); yet it can
 Thus favour sinful men and free
 The chief of sinners, guilty me (c).

(y) 2 Cor. v. 21. God hath made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 1 Pet. iii. 18. Christ hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, (that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.

(z) Col. ii. 14, 15. Blotting out the hand-writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross: and having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Rom. viii. 3. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh. God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh.

(a) Rom. x. 4. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Is. xlv. 24. Surely, shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength. Jer. xxiii. 6. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(b) Rom. iii. 19, 20. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law, there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

(c) The law of works as fulfilled by Christ can and does so. Rom. viii. 3, 4. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. 7. 33, 34. Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth; who is he that condemneth? It is

Christ

We leave the wak'ned sinner's hope
In darknels of despair to grope.

The man whom legal precepts chase,
As yet estrang'd to sov'reign grace,
Mistaking evangelic charms,
As if they stood on legal terms.

Looks to himself, though dead in sin,
For grounds of faith and hope within:
Hence fears and fetters grow and swell,
Since nought's within but sin and hell.

But faith that looks to promis'd grace,
Clean out of self the soul will chase,
To *Christ* for rightcousness and strength,
And find the joyful rest at length.

Proud flesh and blood will startle here,
And hardly such report can bear,
That *Heav'n* all saving store will give
To them that *work not*, but *believe*.

Yet *not of works*, but 'tis the race
Of faith, that it may be of grace:
For faith does nothing but agree
To welcome this salvation free.

"Come down, *Zaccheus*, quickly come,
"Salvation's brought unto thy home:
"In vain thou climb'st the legal tree,
"Salvation freely comes to thee.

"Thou dream'st of *coming up* to terms,
"Come down into my saving arms;
"Down, down, and get a pardon free,
"On terms already wrought by me.

"Behold the blessings of my blood,
"Bought for thy everlasting good,

"And

" And freely all to be conveyed

" Upon the price already paid.

" I know thou hast no good and see,

" I cannot stand on terms with thee,

" Whole fall has left thee nought to claim,

" Nor aught to boast but sin and shame."

The law of heavy hard commands

Confirms the wak'ned sinner's bands ;

But grace proclaims relieving news,

And scenes of matchless mercy shews.

No precept clogs the gospel call,

But wherein grace is all in all ;

No law is here but that of grace,

Which brings relief in ev'ry case.

The gospel is the promise fair

Of grace all ruins to repair,

And leaves no sinner room to say,

" Alas ! this debt I cannot pay ;

" This grievous yoke I cannot bear,

" This high demand I cannot clear."

Grace stops the mouth of such complaints,

And store of full supply presents.

The glorious gospel is (in brief)

A sov'reign word of sweet relief ;

Not clogg'd with cumberfom commands,

To bind the soul's receiving hands.

'Tis joyful news of sov'reign grace,

That *reigns* in state *through righteousness*,

To ransom from all *threat'ning woes*,

And answer all *commanding do's* :

This gospel comes with *help* indeed,

Adapted unto sinners need.

These

L

Ben

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